

Samuel H. Banks, Senior Vice President of the U.S. Customs Modernization Project

Samuel Banks is resident in the firm's Washington, D.C. office. Mr. Banks' experience in customs and international trade includes more than twenty-eight years at the U.S. Customs Service. Mr. Banks began his career at Customs as a uniformed inspector in San Francisco and rose to become the highest-ranking career official in the agency for four years, as Deputy Commissioner. He also served as the Acting Commissioner of Customs for one year. Throughout his tenure with U.S. Customs, Banks worked on a number of major initiatives, including the passage and implementation of the Customs Modernization Act, the landmark legislation that significantly altered the rules governing the entry of imported merchandise into the U.S. He represented the U.S. at international forums and negotiated numerous international agreements, including significant portions of NAFTA. Mr. Banks received many awards during his career at the Customs Service, including the Distinguished Government Executive Award - the highest award given to career public servants - granted to him by President Bush and the Excellence in Government Award from the Joint Industry Group. In the private sector, Mr. Banks worked as a consultant for various international trade businesses including the Air Transport Association, United Parcel Service and Lockheed Martin. Most recently, Mr. Banks served as a corporate officer for an international trade information technology firm. Mr. Banks is a graduate of the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service. E-mail: sbanks@strtrade.com