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Over 35 years of experience as a customs lawyer, including with the U.S. Government, in private practice and as a consultant to governments and companies in developing countries. Most recent work has included working with companies in Africa to determine eligibility for the duty-free treatment available under the African Growth and Opportunity Act. This work included looking at classification, valuation and country of origin issues.

Prior to her consulting business, Ms. Forest was a Senior Trade Advisor at USAID, responsible for providing technical expertise and field support to advance economic growth in developing countries in Europe, Central Asia, Turkey and the Caucasus. There she also provided advice on trade and development issues, particularly trade capacity building, WTO accession and compliance, trade policy reform and regulatory reform and assisted developing countries in streamlining procedures for the collection of customs duty and value-added tax (VAT). She additionally conducted trade capacity assessments in developing countries and designed and managed trade and customs reform projects.

Prior to joining USAID, Ms. Forest spent over twenty years practicing customs and international trade law with the U.S. Government and in major Washington law firms, with a focus on such areas as rules of origin, customs valuation, classification, sanctions, agricultural and textile quotas, tariff and trade legislation, customs clearance, security and enforcement.

Ms. Forest holds a Juris Doctor degree from the University of Minnesota and a Master’s degree from Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS).