Sally Laing



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Education

University of Virginia (B.A., 2004, Bachelor of Arts)

University of Virginia School of Law (J.D., 2009, Juris Doctor)

Drawing on 15 years of executive branch, congressional and private practice experience, Sally advises clients on the intersection of international trade law and U.S. public policy. In this capacity, she guides clients through complex strategic decisions regarding regulatory compliance, supply chain resiliency and overcoming trade barriers. Leveraging experience as a senior government official, Sally is able to counsel clients on cutting-edge trade issues, industrial policy and other emerging challenges.

Sally most recently served as Chief International Trade Counsel to Chair Ron Wyden (D-OR) and Senate Finance Democrats. In this capacity, Sally drafted, negotiated and shepherded the passage of significant trade legislation, including the U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement (USMCA) and Taiwan Agreement implementation bills. She also led Senate oversight of implementation of new customs requirements, including the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act (UFLPA), and U.S. trade negotiations through high-level engagement with U.S. officials, foreign governments and stakeholders from Japan, South Korea, Malaysia, Indonesia, Australia, Kenya, Taiwan and elsewhere. Sally also worked extensively with the Senate Finance Committee tax team and Senate leadership on the drafting, defending and passing of the Inflation Reduction Act (IRA).

Prior to joining the staff of the Senate Finance Committee, Sally was Assistant General Counsel at USTR under both Democratic and Republican Administrations. In this role, Sally researched, developed and litigated several critical WTO disputes, including helping to develop the factual and legal basis for the last two significant U.S. WTO cases against China. She was also charged with drafting and negotiating portions of the USMCA agriculture and sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) chapters, as well as product-specific annexes and side letters. During her time at USTR, Sally worked extensively with U.S. government agencies such as Customs and Border Protection (CBP), the Department of Commerce (DOC), the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) and the Department of State.

Prior to serving in government, Sally was an associate at Akin, where she worked on trade policy, trade remedies and customs matters.

Areas of Focus

- International Trade
- International Trade Policy
- Export Controls & Economic Sanctions
- Sovereign Governments
- World Trade Organization (WTO) Dispute Resolution & Counseling
- Trade Remedy Litigation