

Laura Ortega-Lamela
Executive Director
International Business Council
Illinois Chamber of Commerce

Laura is an E.U. Counsel and former Foreign Service Officer for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation of Spain with expertise in Government Relations and International Law and Policy. She focuses on Multi-jurisdiction and Consular Affairs as well as Strategic Business Planning and International Client Management and Partnerships. Ms. Ortega has knowledge of Common Law and Civil Code systems with proficient cross-cultural communication skills in English, French and Spanish.

Laura accepted the role as Executive Director of International Business Council (IBC) at the Illinois Chamber of Commerce with the objective of increasing global trading opportunities for Illinois and bringing most needed Investments, jobs and revenue to our state. In this capacity, Ms. Ortega advocates and works with the local, state and federal government as well as foreign agencies and representations on matters relating to international trade and US foreign economic policy focusing on issues of competition, market access, export facilitation, FTAs and FDI. She also facilitates business opportunities and help companies to access, develop and implement international growth strategies while dealing with due diligence and domestic regulatory issues.

Her most recent position prior to the IBC was with the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation at the Legal Office for Consular Affairs in Madrid where she conducted legal matters relative to international judicial cooperation with foreign governments around the world and various issues relating to Diplomatic protection, Naturalization and Citizenship. Some of her previous work as a Foreign Service Officer also includes heading the Immigration and Naturalization Services at the Consulate General of Spain-Chicago.

Before joining the Spanish Ministry of Foreign Affairs & Cooperation, Ms. Ortega was EU Counsel at the law firm of Delaney Law. As an attorney licensed to practice law in Madrid, she provided multi-jurisdiction strategy, legal and policy advice to domestic and foreign clients on trade matters specific to Spain and the EU. She also assisted with Spanish speaking clients and founded LEXPAÑA Group to handle business transactions and other export issues or expansions from and into LATAM and Spain.

EDUCATION

Georgetown University - Universidad Rey Juan Carlos (URJC) 2012 – 2013

Expert Certificate on "Energy from a Transatlantic Perspective", Law, Politics and Economics

Six-months International Public Policy Fellowship founded by the Congressional Hispanic Caucus Institute (CHCI) to provide advanced training on International Law, Politics and Economics, focusing on US-Spain/Europe; 2nd Edition: Energy Relations. Research Paper & GU Presentation: "The Quantum in Investment Treaty Arbitration: Adequacy of the ICSID Awards in Energy Related Concerns."

Diplomatic School of Spain 2011

Master of Arts (M.A.), Diplomacy and International Relations

Area of Concentration: International Commerce & Global Business Expansions

Research paper: "International business conflicts and the protection of the environment within the WTO"

Activities and Societies: Diplomatic School Alumni Association, Founding member.

Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia - U.N.E.D. 2008

M.A. in Law

Licensed to practice Law in Spain; Member of the Madrid Bar Association (ICAM) & ABA, Section of International Law.

Universidad de Cordoba, Spain 1995

Bachelor's degree in Law