






Meeting request: Vice Foreign Minister of Panama

 Munson, Lester

       
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Corey, Troy:  
The vice foreign minister of Panama, Carlos Ruiz-Hernandez, is in Washington currently. He'd love to touch base with either of you early next week, ideally Monday. Apologies for the short notice!  
Carlos was a lawyer in Washington for several years before going home to serve in the Mulino administration, speaks excellent English and totally plugged into all of the hot topics in the relationship.  
He's been the point man for President Mulino for the recent increase in bilateral intensity for the past few weeks.  
Bio here: [Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs](#)  
Please let me know if you have time to see him!

Thanks for considering.  
Best,  
Lester

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**Carlos Ruiz-Hernandez**  
Vice Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Ambassador Carlos Ruiz-Hernández serves as Vice Foreign Minister of the Republic of Panama. Appointed by President José Raúl Mulino, Ambassador Ruiz-Hernández brings extensive experience in international law, international public policy and strategic management of global business. His distinguished career in high-level diplomacy, international policy advisory roles, and academic achievements uniquely position him to advance Panama's interests on the global stage, particularly in the United Nations Security Council, and signal to international markets that Panama is ready to participate responsibly in global trade and geopolitics today.  
The Vice Chancellor holds a Master's Degree in International Public Policy from Johns Hopkins University in Washington, D.C., a Master's Degree in Public Policy and International Economics (on license) from the University of Chicago, two (2) Master's Degrees from Tulane University—one in Maritime Law and one in Energy and Environmental Law—and a Bachelor's Degree in Law and Political Science from Universidad Santa María La Antigua in Panama. She is fluent in English and Spanish, has a basic knowledge of French, and has work experience in Brussels, Paris, Geneva, New York, and Washington, D.C., where she currently resides.  
As Senior Foreign Policy Advisor at the Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS) in Washington, D.C., the Deputy Foreign Minister of the Republic of Panama contributed significantly to the formulation of strategies for U.S. and Americas national security programs. His perspectives on geopolitical trends, U.S.-Latin American relations, and the rule of law inform policy decisions in the Western Hemisphere.  
Previously, the Vice Chancellor also served as Public Policy Advisor for the New York City Bar Association, managing its Americas portfolio and advising on international public policy. He led strategic engagements with government officials, including Supreme Court justices from across Latin America, and played a pivotal role in the New York Bar Association's response through the Vance Center in New York during the COVID-19 pandemic in the Americas.  
The Vice Chancellor also maintains relationships and affiliations with prestigious institutions such as the Inter-American Dialogue in Washington, D.C., The Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars, the National Democratic Institute (NDI), the National Endowment for Democracy (NED), the Brookings Institution, the Peterson Institute for International Economics, and the United States Institute of Peace (USIP). His collaborations with global leaders and stakeholders provide valuable perspectives on U.S. foreign policy, international trade, and economic development.  
In the private sector, our Vice Chancellor has been dedicated to advising sovereign clients and large international law firms on transactions, corporate law and strategic project management. Following a law firm merger, he coordinated high-level work and engagements at what is now A0 Sherman LLP, the world's second-largest law firm. His experience in international investment arbitration and commercial disputes, including engagements with the ICSID, LCIA, ICDR and the ICC, has established him as an advisor on the roster of various platforms and consulting firms.  
His diplomatic skill was honed during his tenure as Ambassador, Deputy Permanent Representative of Panama to the United Nations. There, he led Panama's delegation on critical issues such as civil protection, climate change and international security, and in 2012 he was the lead manager in Panama's bid for a non permanent seat on the UN Security Council that will begin on January 1, 2025.  
Academically, Ambassador Ruiz Hernandez has been a research fellow and assistant educator at Johns Hopkins University's School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS), focusing on U.S. history, U.S. relations, and U.S. relations with US-China and its transatlantic relations. His research on migration, corruption, and human rights in Central America further underscores his commitment to public service and policy development.  
As Deputy Foreign Minister, Ambassador Ruiz-Hernandez aims to support President Mulino and Foreign Minister Martínez-Aché in promoting Panama's global interests, strengthening international alliances and upholding the rule of law, international law, sustainable development, and strategic foreign policy initiatives.

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