

## **RYBERG AND SMITH, L.L.C.**

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### **Biography of Paul Ryberg**

Paul Ryberg is a founding partner in the Washington, D.C. law firm of Ryberg and Smith, L.L.C., where his practice focuses on international trade law, including in particular trade between Africa and the United States, especially under the African Growth and Opportunity Act (AGOA), and sugar trade. Mr. Ryberg's law practice also includes advising clients on agricultural trade, textile and apparel trade, Customs issues affecting a variety of products and import programs, and lobbying Congress on trade legislation. Prior to founding Ryberg and Smith, L.L.C. in 2000, Mr. Ryberg was a partner in Pierson, Semmes and Bemis, L.L.P. from 1982 to 1999.

Mr. Ryberg has frequently testified before the U.S. Congress, agencies of the U.S. Government, and the U.S. International Trade Commission (ITC) on matters affecting U.S.-Africa trade and sugar trade policy. Most recently, Mr. Ryberg testified before the ITC in its January 2018 hearing on U.S.-Africa trade and investment policy.

Mr. Ryberg is recognized as one of the leading experts on AGOA. He actively participated in the development and enactment of AGOA. He was also directly involved in the implementation and several rounds of amendment to AGOA through its most recent extension in 2015. Mr. Ryberg advised and/or represented various AGOA beneficiary countries in obtaining approval of their AGOA visa systems, which is a prerequisite for eligibility under the AGOA apparel program. These countries include: Botswana, Benin, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Senegal, and Swaziland. In addition, Mr. Ryberg has advised and/or represented various African governments and/or private sector entities on other issues arising under AGOA, including: Cote d'Ivoire, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritius, and Swaziland. Representative private sector clients in Africa (where the representation is a matter of public record) include: African Cotton and Textile Industries Federation (ACTIF), APEX-CI (Cote d'Ivoire trade and promotion entity), Kenya Association of Manufacturers, Lesotho Textile Exporters Association, Madagascar Free Zone Association (GEFP), and Mauritius Export Association.

Mr. Ryberg is President of African Coalition for Trade (ACT), a non-profit trade association of African private sector entities dedicated to expanding U.S.-Africa trade ties. ACT has been one of the leading spokespersons for the African private sector in the development, enactment, implementation and amendment of AGOA.

Mr. Ryberg has also served on the Boards of Directors of several other non-profits involved in promoting trade and investment, including the Corporate Council on Africa

(CCA), the Mauritius-U.S. Business Association, and the International Sugar Trade Coalition.

Mr. Ryberg has served as a member of the Steering Committee for several of the Private Sector Sessions of the U.S. – Africa Trade and Economic Cooperation Forum (the AGOA Forum). He co-chaired the AGOA Forum Private Sector Session of the first AGOA Forum to be held in Africa, which was in Mauritius in 2003. Mr. Ryberg has also spoken as a featured speaker or expert panelist at many of the annual AGOA Forum sessions.

Mr. Ryberg has also spoken at numerous conferences and seminars on international trade law, including a series of AGOA trade capacity building conferences sponsored by the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative in Africa in 2002 and a series of 11 AGOA training seminars presented by ACT in 2000 and 2001 in five countries in southern Africa. Mr. Ryberg has frequently spoken at CCA's U.S.-Africa Business Summit. He has also spoken at international trade conferences in Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Jamaica, Kenya, Madagascar, Mauritius, South Africa, Tanzania, the United Kingdom, and Zambia.

Mr. Ryberg is the author of numerous articles in various publications on U.S.-Africa trade and investment and on AGOA in particular. Mr. Ryberg is also the editor of the *U.S.-Africa Trade Report*, a monthly publication of ACT.

Mr. Ryberg is an honors graduate of Harvard Law School (J.D. *cum laude* 1977) and Wichita State University (B.A. *summa cum laude* 1974).