



Hon. Alina L. Romanowski

U.S. Ambassador to the State of Kuwait

Alina L. Romanowski, a career member of the Senior Executive Service, was sworn in as the U.S. Ambassador to the State of Kuwait on January 6, 2020. Prior to her appointment, she served as the Department of State's Principal Deputy Coordinator for Counterterrorism, where she oversaw the coordination and integration of U.S. counterterrorism policy objectives and developed and implemented U.S. counterterrorism assistance and capacity-building programs with key U.S. partners. During almost 40 years of service across various U.S. Government agencies, Ambassador Romanowski has become expert on Middle East affairs.

Previously at the Department of State, Ambassador Romanowski served as the Coordinator for U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia and coordinated closely with the Bureau for South and Central Asian Affairs and the Office of the Director of Foreign Assistance. She also held Deputy Assistant Secretary positions in the Bureau of Education and Cultural Affairs and served as acting Deputy Assistant Secretary in the Bureau of Near Eastern Affairs. She joined the Department of State in 2003 to establish the Middle East Partnership Initiative (MEPI) Office and serve as its first Director.

At the U.S. Agency for International Development from 2011 to 2015, she served as Deputy Assistant Administrator for the Middle East Bureau, including as the acting Assistant Administrator for the Bureau. Ambassador Romanowski also served in senior positions at the Defense Department from 1990-2003. She was: founding Director of the Near East - South Asia Center for Strategic Studies at the National Defense University; Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Near Eastern and South Asian Affairs in the Office of the Secretary of Defense; Director of the NESO Office, and country director for Israel. She began her U.S. Government career as an analyst at the Central Intelligence Agency.

Ambassador Romanowski's awards include: a Presidential Distinguished Rank Award for Senior Executive Service; two Presidential Meritorious Rank Awards for Senior Executive Service; several Department of State Superior Rank Awards; two Secretary of Defense Meritorious Civilian Service Awards; and a CIA Exceptional Performance Award.

Ambassador Romanowski received an M.A. and a B.A. from the University of Chicago. She studied at Tel Aviv University in Israel. A member of the Council on Foreign Relations, she speaks French and has studied Arabic and Hebrew. .

Ambassador Romanowski is married to Bill Matzelevich, a retired United States Navy Captain, and they have two adult children.



Hon. Leslie M. Tsou

U.S. Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman

Leslie M. Tsou, a career member of the Senior Foreign Service, class of Minister Counselor, arrived as U.S. Ambassador to the Sultanate of Oman on January 10, 2020. Prior to her appointment, she served as the first Deputy Chief of Mission of the U.S. Embassy in Jerusalem following its opening in May 2018.

She previously served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in Tel Aviv from 2016 to 2017, and as Senior Advisor for Iran (2015-2016) and Director of the Office of Iranian Affairs (2012-2015) in the Near Eastern Affairs Bureau at the U.S. Department of State. She was Deputy Political Counselor at the U.S. Embassy in Baghdad (2011-2012) and Director of Arabian Peninsula Affairs on the National Security Staff at the White House (2010-2011).

Ambassador Tsou's other overseas tours of duty include London, Tripoli, Kuwait City, and Warsaw. Her domestic tours of duty include the UK desk, the Libya desk, the Tunisia desk, and several assignments in the Office of the Secretary of State.

Ambassador Tsou earned a B.S. at Georgetown University in Washington, D.C. She is the recipient of numerous Department of State awards, including the 2003 Director General Award for Reporting. She speaks Arabic and Polish.