

## **Christina Sharkey, Foreign Commercial Service Officer U.S. Department of Commerce, San Francisco Office**

Ms. Christina Sharkey is a Foreign Commercial Service Officer currently serving as a Senior International Specialist at the U.S. Commercial Service office in San Francisco. She specializes in helping U.S. Exporters in the fields of Biotechnology, Education, and Publishing.

Prior to moving to California, Ms. Sharkey served as the Deputy Senior Commercial Officer at the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, Egypt. Her duties in Cairo ranged from managerial to administrative, working along with the local staff to help American companies understand the intricacies and nuances of doing business in Egypt, Lebanon, and Libya. She also worked actively with her Embassy colleagues to help guide Egypt along on the road to a Free Trade Agreement, focusing on Intellectual Property Rights and Standards.

Before joining the team in Cairo, Ms. Sharkey served as a Commercial Officer in the bustling Beijing, China office. While there, she specialized in promoting U.S. Retail, Consumer Goods, Franchising, and, most importantly, Wine. She spent a great deal of time on Intellectual Property Rights issues and joined the battle in combating barriers to trade. Customer Service had become her focus to improve the products and services offered by the Commercial Staff

Ms. Sharkey launched her career in the Department of Commerce as an International Trade Specialist in the Office of International Operations under the U.S. and Foreign Commercial Service. Specifically, she began by covering the countries of South Asia, but later added North Africa and the Levant. She occasionally dipped into Africa, including a temporary assignment in Johannesburg, South Africa. During her years in Washington, she was awarded Commerce's Silver Medal for her work in setting up a fund for the victims of the 1998 Nairobi Embassy bombings.

Her career in International Relations did not begin with Commerce, however. She first worked internationally as a researcher for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe's Parliamentary Assembly located in Denmark, Copenhagen. Before beginning the international phase of her life, she worked in U.S. politics as a Press Secretary and Legislative Assistant on Capitol Hill, and kicked off this distinguished career as a White House Intern.

Christina received a Bachelor of Arts with honors from James Madison University in International Relations and the Russian Language. She tortured herself even more by adding minors in Economics and French. She later learned Mandarin Chinese at the Foreign Service Institute.

Christina is married with two children, is an avid traveler having visited over 60 countries and 40 U.S. States, and enjoys reading anything political and cooking.