

WOMEN, BUSINESS AND THE LAW 2016 GETTING TO EQUAL



*Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee,
the World Bank Group's Women Business and the Law and
the Congressional African Staff Association
invite you to:*



Women, Business and the Law Panel and Reception

Tuesday, December 13, 2016 | 5:30 pm

Congressional Meeting Room South 217
United States Capitol, First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20515

The World Bank Group's *Women, Business and the Law* measures how laws, regulations and institutions differentiate between women and men in ways that may affect women's incentives or capacity to work or to set up and run a business. It provides data on legal and regulatory barriers to women's entrepreneurship and employment in 173 economies, covering seven areas: accessing institutions, using property, getting a job, providing incentives to work, building credit, going to court and protecting women from violence. This year's report marks the 4th edition of the global *Women, Business and the Law* report series. More information can be found at: wbl.worldbank.org. *Women, Business and the Law 2016: Getting to Equal* [Report](#) | [Key findings](#)

*Welcome remarks: **Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee, (TX-18)***

*Emcee: **Melissa Johns**-Advisor, Global Indicators Group, Development Economics, World Bank Group*

5:30 pm-6:30 pm: Panel discussion

*Moderated by: **Sandra Pepera**-Director for Gender, Women and Democracy, National Democratic Institute (NDI)*

Markus Goldstein-Lead Economist, Gender Innovation Lab, World Bank Group

Caren Grown-Senior Director for Gender, World Bank Group

Sarah Iqbal-Program Manager, Women, Business and the Law, World Bank Group

6:30 pm-7:30 pm: Reception

[RSVP here](#)

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The Honorable Sheila Jackson Lee

Congresswoman, United States House of Representatives (TX-18)



Congresswoman Sheila Jackson Lee is serving her eleventh term as a member of the United States House of Representatives. During Congresswoman Jackson Lee's tenure in Congress she has served on various Committees including the Committee on Foreign Affairs, Homeland Security, and Judiciary. Congresswoman Jackson Lee is a senior Member of the House Judiciary Committee, and is now the Ranking Member on the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, Homeland Security and Investigations – the first woman to ever hold that position on the Committee. Congresswoman Jackson Lee serves on numerous Caucuses including the Children's Caucus, Azerbaijan Caucus, the Pakistan Caucus, and the Afghan Caucus. She is also the founder and Co-Chairs the Nigeria Caucus. Congresswoman Jackson Lee has served in leadership positions in the Congressional Black Caucus and other affiliated organizations.

Markus Goldstein

Lead Economist, Gender Innovation Lab, World Bank Group



Markus Goldstein is a development economist with experience working in Sub-Saharan Africa, East Asia, and South Asia. He is currently a Lead Economist in the office of the Chief Economist for Africa at the World Bank, where he leads the Africa Gender Innovation Lab. His current research centers on issues of gender and economic activity, focusing on agriculture and small scale enterprises. He is involved in a number of impact evaluations on these topics across Sub-Saharan Africa. His other research areas include HIV/AIDS, land tenure and the economics of poverty. Markus has taught at the London School of Economics, the University of Ghana, Legon, and Georgetown University and published widely in academic journals and books. He holds a PhD from the University of California, Berkeley. He is also a co-founder and regular contributor to the Development Impact blog.

Caren Grown

Senior Director for Gender, World Bank Group



Caren Grown, Senior Director for Gender at the World Bank Group, is recognized internationally as an expert on gender and development. Before joining the Bank Group in 2014, she was Economist-In-Residence and Co-Director of the Program on Gender Analysis in Economics at American University. From 2013-2014, she led the UNU-WIDER program on aid effectiveness and gender equality, and from 2011-2013 she served as Senior Gender Advisor and Acting Senior Coordinator for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment at USAID. Among her previous positions, she has been Senior Scholar and Co-Director of the Gender Equality and Economy Program at the Levy Economics Institute at Bard College, Director of the Poverty Reduction and Economic Governance team at the International Center for Research on Women, and Senior Program Officer at the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation.

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Sarah Iqbal

Program Manager, Women, Business and the Law, World Bank Group



Sarah Iqbal manages the World Bank Group's Women, Business and the Law project. She joined the World Bank Group in 2008, where she worked with the Doing Business Project before moving to the *Women, Business and the Law* project. The *Women, Business and the Law* report and dataset examines how the legal and regulatory environment affects women's ability to get jobs and start businesses. She is a member of the California Bar, and prior to joining the World Bank Group she practiced civil litigation and criminal defense law. Her primary interests lie in the realm of law and development and comparative law. Ms. Iqbal holds a BA in English and History from the University of California, Berkeley, an MA in International Relations and International Economics from Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS) and a JD concentrating in International Law from the University of California, Hastings College of the Law.

Melissa Johns

Advisor, Global Indicators Group, Development Economics, World Bank Group



Melissa Johns is an Advisor in the World Bank Group's Development Economics, Global Indicators Group. She serves on the management team overseeing the production of global analytical products focused on the business environment (including Doing Business; Enterprise Surveys; Women, Business and the Law and the Migration and Remittances Database) and leads the creation of new datasets focusing on regulatory transparency and quality. This work contributes timely, objective and comparable data on the business environment to policymaking and research around the world. Before joining the Global Indicators Group, Johns led investment climate advisory projects in more than 10 countries and managed a team with operational engagements spanning 40 countries and 5 regions. Johns holds a Juris Doctorate from Stanford University and a Bachelor of Arts in Public Policy Studies from Duke University. Before joining the World Bank she practiced law with international law firm Cleary, Gottlieb, Steen & Hamilton.

Sandra Pepera

Director for Gender, Women and Democracy, National Democratic Institute (NDI)



Sandra Pepera is a career diplomat and international development professional. Before joining NDI as its director for Gender, Women and Democracy in 2014, she spent thirteen years as a senior officer at the UK's Department for International Development (DFID), including leading programs in the Caribbean, Rwanda-Burundi and Sudan. Sandra spent time in British domestic politics; lecturing in political science and international relations at the University of Ghana; and as a political analyst in the Political Affairs Division at the Commonwealth Secretariat. Much of Sandra's career has been spent working in or on transitional economies, focusing on the building of resilient and inclusive institutions. She led work on women and politics at the University of Ghana and in outreach public policy during the period of intense and unstable political transition in the early 1990s. This included participating in a program that supported the ANC Women's League during South Africa's transition from apartheid to majority democratic rule in 1993.