

## **NCC CONNECTIONS EVENT**

**Monday February 26, 7:00pm Distinguished Neighbor Speaker Series**

**ANDY SHOYER: The North American Free Trade Agreement: Origins, Controversies, and Next Steps**

**Venue:** North Chevy Chase Christian Church, 8814 Kensington Parkway – Community Room

During the first debate of the 2016 Presidential election campaign, then-candidate Donald Trump called the NAFTA “the single worst trade deal ever approved in this country . . . maybe ever signed anywhere.” Now as President, he has threatened to withdraw from the NAFTA, then launched a renegotiation with Canada and Mexico, then restated his threats to withdraw. One of our neighbors, Andy Shoyer, was a U.S. government lawyer who worked on the NAFTA negotiation and might be one of the few individuals who has actually read its more than 1,000 pages (because it was his job, not because it was entertaining). He will discuss the origins of the NAFTA, what it is and what it does, or is supposed to do, why it has been so controversial from its inception, and what might result from the current renegotiation and threats of withdrawal.

Andy Shoyer practices international trade law at Sidley Austin LLP. Andy spent seven years at the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative (USTR), serving most recently as Legal Advisor in the U.S. Mission to the WTO in Geneva. He was the principal negotiator for the United States of the rules implementing the WTO Dispute Settlement Understanding and has briefed and argued numerous WTO cases before dispute settlement panels and the WTO Appellate Body. Prior to his arrival in Geneva, Andy was Assistant General Counsel at USTR in Washington, D.C., where he served as principal legal counsel in the negotiation of the market access rules of the NAFTA, as well as the framework agreements with various Latin American countries. He is an adjunct professor in international trade and investment policy at the School of Foreign Service of Georgetown University.

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