

Dave Townsend

Partner

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Dave advises clients on international trade and transactions.

Dave is a partner in the firm's Government Solutions and Investigations Practice Group. Dave obtains favorable outcomes in international trade-related disputes, investigations, litigation, and negotiations.

Dave represents U.S. and foreign clients in trade litigation and disputes, including in matters before the Department of Commerce, the International Trade Commission, and the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP). He has represented clients in antidumping, countervailing duty, duty evasion, and safeguard proceedings. In addition, Dave has assisted clients in investigations under sections 232 and 301, and compliance with free and preferential trade agreement obligations. Dave also assists companies with import compliance, including classification, country-of-origin, and valuation, and prior disclosures to CBP.

Dave advises clients on U.S. economic sanctions, export controls, and national-security related matters, including matters before the Bureau of Industry and Security (BIS), the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), the Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC), and the Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC). He helps clients with voluntary self disclosures, enforcement matters, developing corporate compliance policies, and trade due diligence in mergers and acquisitions.

Dave's clients have included those in a variety of industry sectors, including various agricultural products, chemicals, energy, distilled spirits, financial and other services, solar products, and steel. Dave has significant experience helping clients that are doing business between China and the United States.

Dave is adjunct faculty at the University of Minnesota Law School, where he teaches courses on U.S. trade law. Dave also previously taught at the Georgetown University Law Center on WTO agreements, negotiations, and disputes.

Education

- The George Washington University Law School (J.D., 2010)
 - with honors; Senior Articles Editor, *Journal of Energy and Environmental Law*
- London School of Economics and Political Science (M.S., International Political Economy, 2007)
 - with honors
- University of Minnesota (B.A., Political Science and Sociology, 2004)
 - *summa cum laude*; Phi Beta Kappa

Bar Admissions

- District of Columbia
- Maryland
- Minnesota

Select Experience

U.S. ANTI-DUMPING AND COUNTERVAILING DUTY PROCEEDINGS

- WHITE GRAPE JUICE CONCENTRATE FROM ARGENTINA
Obtained lowest preliminary antidumping and countervailing rates for Argentine mandatory respondent
- CRYSTALLINE SILICON PHOTOVOLTAIC PRODUCTS FROM CHINA (ANTI-CIRCUMVENTION)
Advised U.S. importers on investigations and potential application to U.S. solar projects
- CERTAIN ALUMINUM ALLOY SHEET FROM CHINA
Represented Chinese industry associations in Commerce antidumping proceeding and International Trade Commission injury investigation.
- CERTAIN STEEL NAILS FROM OMAN
Lowered antidumping duty rate for foreign exporter and mandatory respondent in administrative review.

Professional Affiliations

- Council Member for the Minnesota State Bar Association International Business Law Section (Previously served as Chair)
- Adjunct Faculty, University of Minnesota Law School

Accolades

- *Thomson Reuters*, "Stand-Out Lawyer", 2025
- *IFLR*, Americas Rising Star (International Trade), 2021
- *Thomson Reuters*, "America's Leading Business Lawyers" (International Trade: Trade Remedies & Trade Policy), 2019

Additional Information

- Idaho Business Review, *Opportunities and Obstacles in International Trade* (Aug. 27, 2018) (co-authored with Robert Maynard)
- ABA Section of International Law, *International Legal Developments Year in Review 2017*, International Trade Chapter (2018) (contributor)
- Journal of International Economic Law, *Preventing Opportunistic Uncompliance by WTO Members* (2011) (co-authored with Professor Steve Charnovitz)
- Richmond Journal of Global Law and Business, *Stretching the Dispute Settlement Understanding: U.S. – Cotton's Relaxed Interpretation of Cross-Retaliation in the World Trade Organization* (2010)

Select Presentations

- Minnesota Business Law Institute, *Every time I turn around the regulations change: How to Navigate Corporate Compliance in U.S. Export Controls and Economic Sanctions* (September 2, 2020)
- Dorsey & Whitney, *A Look at U.S.-Cuban Relations: Past, Present and Future* (Oct. 22, 2018)
- Minnesota State Bar Association 42nd Annual International Business Law Institute,

Insights

June 4, 2026

Proposed New Section 301 Tariffs and Other Trade-Related Developments

May 8, 2026

U.S. Court of International Trade Holds Section 122 Tariffs Unlawful – Enjoins Tariff Collection and Orders Refunds for Plaintiff-Importers

May 7, 2026

Dave Townsend Examines U.S. Trade Court’s Decision on Trump’s New Global Tariffs

March 13, 2026

Opportunity to Comment on Foreign Trade Practices with New Tariffs Looming Under Section 301

March 12, 2026

DOJ Releases “First-Ever” Corporate Enforcement Policy Promoting Self-Disclosure and Cooperation

March 1, 2026

Dave Townsend on the Supreme Court’s Ruling on President Trump’s Tariffs

February 20, 2026

U.S. Supreme Court Strikes Down Trump Emergency Tariff Actions

November 6, 2025

Trump Decreases Tariffs on Chinese Goods, Increases Tariffs on Canadian Goods, and Announces a Flurry of Trade Arrangements

October 30, 2025

Trump Escalates Sanctions Against Russia

October 7, 2025

Public Consultation Begins on Renewal of U.S.-Mexico-Canada Agreement

October 2, 2025

Commerce Extends U.S. Export Control Restrictions to Affiliates of Parties on the Entity List

September 16, 2025

U.S. Supreme Court to Consider IEEPA Tariffs on Expedited Basis

September 12, 2025

Dave Townsend Comments on ICE Detention and Trump Tariffs at SCOTUS

August 4, 2025

Trump Increases Tariffs on Dozens of Countries

May 29, 2025

Federal Court Strikes Down Trump's Border Emergency and Global Tariffs