

Dear Friends:

September 13, 2023

This letter is to update our immersion programs for top U.S. and Chinese law students. To help educate these future leaders, hundreds of current leaders have given their time and/or support letters (e.g., Boehner, Carson, Chu, Francisco, Kerry, Hoyer, Pai, Pelosi, Pence, Sanders). Special efforts have come from Senators Durbin, Hatch, and Inouye; Secretary LaHood; and Justices Alito and Jackson. Such investments in future leaders can support future U.S.-China relations. Please visit www.usasiainstitute.org/ruleoflaw.

U.S. Program. Each summer since 2008, we have hosted small groups of bilingual Chinese law students for four weeks in Washington, DC. We selected these 82 *Chinese fellows* from China's top schools. During their busy month in DC, they attended legislative and judicial proceedings and met with U.S. government officials, typically six meetings per day. These meetings included over 900 members and staff of Congress, over 200 administration officials, and over 130 judges. When not in meetings, they visited our museums and landmarks, joined our cultural and social events (e.g., July 4th fireworks, Nats games, backyard BBQs), and gained lifelong impressions and friends. Please visit www.usasiainstitute.org/ruleoflaw/usprogram.

China Program. Each summer since 2016, we have sent small groups of bilingual U.S. law students to China for two weeks. We selected these 37 *American fellows* from Columbia, Cornell, Duke, Georgetown, GWU, Michigan, Penn, UVA, and Yale. Please visit www.usasiainstitute.org/ruleoflaw/chinaprogram.

Program History. The idea for these programs arose during my service as chief of staff for the Small Business Committee and the U.S.-China Interparliamentary Exchange in the U.S. House of Representatives from 2002-2007. During our many delegations to China, every meeting with college students managed to impress everyone involved. The idea grew after I moved to China in 2007 and began teaching part-time at Chinese law schools. The program started with one of my students in 2008 and USAI adopted the program in 2011. In 2014, I moved back to the U.S. where I have continued to guide the program as a USAI advisor.

Program Impact. Fellows from both programs now serve in academia, government, NGOs, corporations, and law firms. See the attached alumni letters, and these approved quotes:

"I've been so impressed by the legal exchange program with China, and feel strongly that the U.S. and China need more of this type of cooperation." – Peter Yeo, SVP, United Nations Foundation (9/7/2018)

"Your US-PRC legal program is a fascinating example of the best kind of 'public diplomacy' I have learned about in our critical relationship with the PRC." – Ed Feulner, Founder, Heritage Foundation (8/20/2018)

For all participants on both sides, these programs are a window into each other's nation, culture, and future. If you would like to participate, please contact me at jmszymanski@gmail.com.

With kindest regards,

Matthew Szymanski

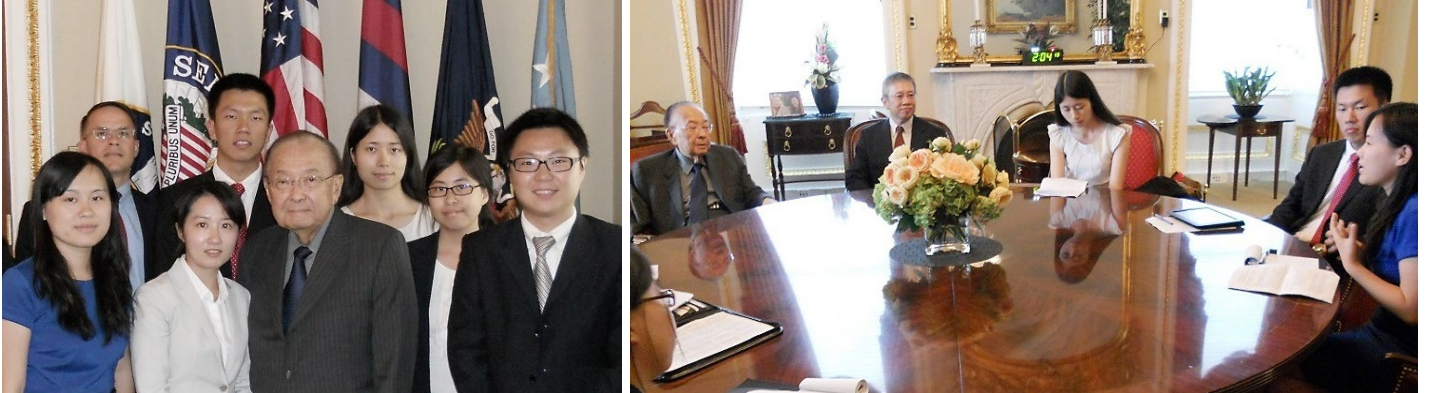
J. Matthew Szymanski
Senior Advisor, US-Asia Institute

Attachments: Program Highlights (following pages)

Special Hosts from the Legislative Branch: Senators Inouye, Hatch, & Durbin



Above with Sen. Inouye in 2009, 2010, and 2011, after 30-min meetings in his Pro Tem Office in the Capitol.



Pictures from our 2012 session (above and below) are representative of our four meetings with Sen. Inouye, who always sat at his table with us and ensured that each student had the opportunity to inquire or comment.



A decorated WWII veteran who lost his right arm, he'd often speak of the need for frequent human contact and trade between our countries. Sen. Inouye was a great U.S. leader and advocate for stable U.S.-China relations.



We gratefully acknowledge the late Senator Daniel Inouye (1924-2012) for the 30 minutes of Q&A he gave us each summer from 2009-2012, and for his support letter below. As President Pro Tempore, he was the highest-ranking senator and fourth-highest U.S. official. For additional info, including host list, photo gallery, and support letters, please visit www.usasiainstitute.org/ruleoflaw/usprogram.

DANIEL K. INOUE
HAWAII
PRESIDENT PROTEMPORE

S-125, U.S. Capitol Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-9400
(202) 224-3593 FAX

United States Senate

March 1, 2012

Mr. Matthew Szymanski
Senior Advisor
U.S.-Asia Institute
232 East Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Mr. Szymanski:

It has been a pleasure meeting with you and law students from China over the past few years. I have found the students to be very engaging, well-informed, and eager to apply the knowledge they have gained through this invaluable experience to the development of China's legal system.

I commend you on founding a rule of law immersion program that brings law students from China to the United States. During the course of this program, the Chinese law students build connections and relationships with the citizens of the U.S. It is this person-to-person connection that garners lasting impressions and is a vital component to the promotion of international cooperation and increased U.S.-China interactions.

The steady rise in the number of participants each year shows the importance of continuing this program. I am pleased that the U.S.-Asia Institute (USAI) will manage the new Szymanski Rule of Law Program and support its sustained expansion. I wish you and the USAI continued success.

Aloha,

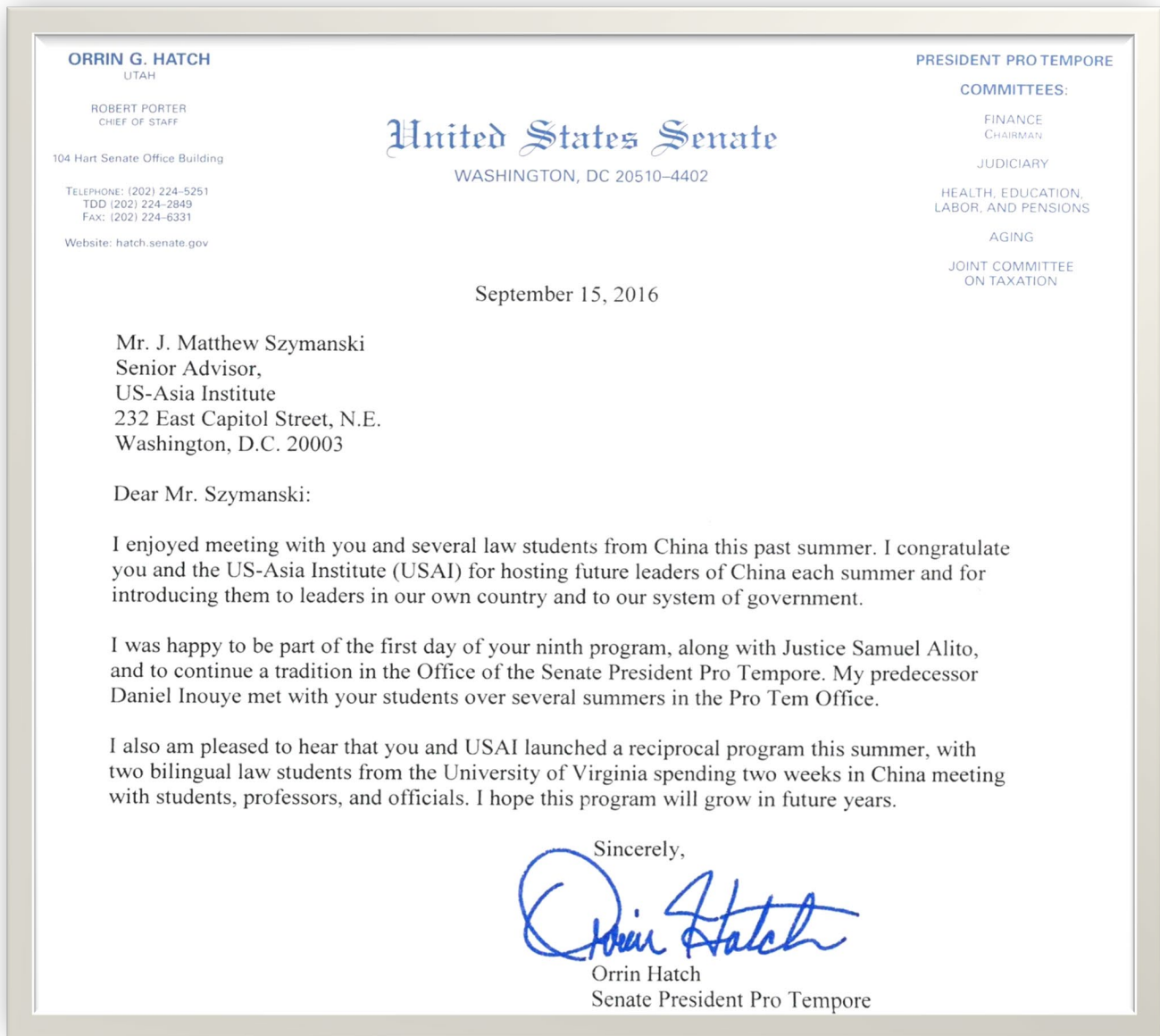


DANIEL K. INOUE
President Pro Tempore
United States Senate

We are thankful that Sen. Orrin Hatch continued the tradition of Senator Inouye in the Pro Tem Office.



Above and below: our 2016 Session with Senator Orrin Hatch in the Pro Tem Office of the Capitol.



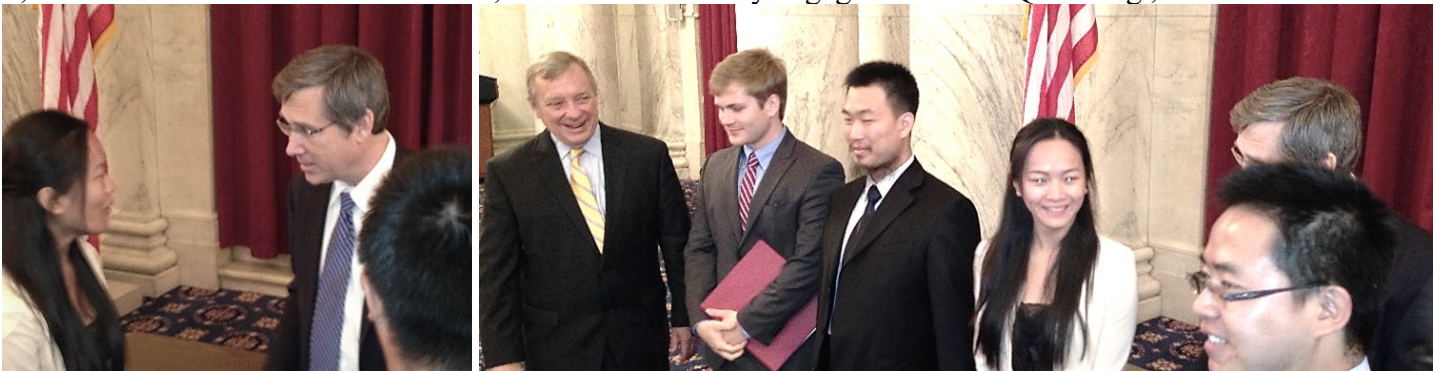
We also thank Senator Richard Durbin (#2 Senate Democratic leader since Jan 2005), who has participated nine times, more than any other senator. He always invites the students to attend a *Constituent Coffee*—a regular town-hall event that he and his Illinois colleague host for Illinois residents visiting D.C. See sample pics below.



Above and below in 2011 with Senators Richard Durbin and Mark Kirk at their monthly constituent coffee.



During these events, Sen. Durbin sometimes invites a question from one of our students, who will stand and ask it, much like a constituent. Afterwards, the Senators usually engage us in brief Q&A. E.g., below in 2013.

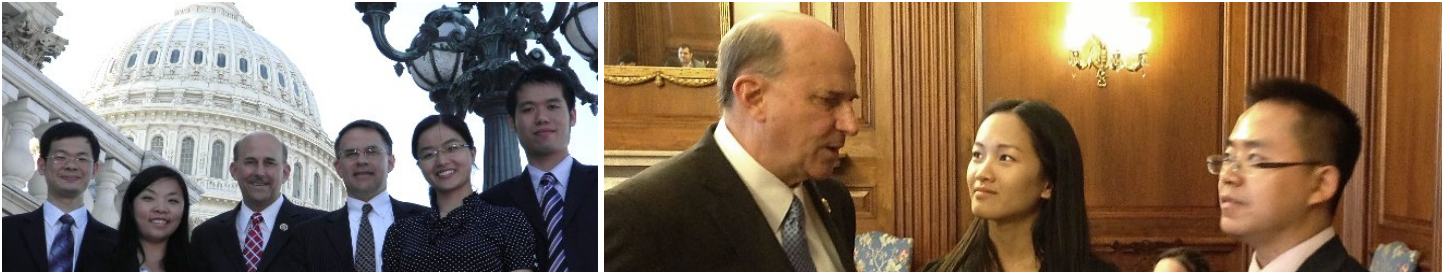


Below in 2017, before the event, with Senator Durbin and his Illinois colleague, Senator Tammy Duckworth, a former Army helicopter pilot who lost both legs from combat wounds while serving our country in Iraq.



For more pictures with Sen. Durbin, and his support letter, please see our photo gallery and support letters at www.usasiainstitute.org/ruleoflaw/usprogram.

In the House, special thanks are owed to former Rep. Don Manzullo, an anchor host for several years, and to Rep. Louie Gohmert (a former Texas state judge), who has participated in ten of our programs. Sample pics below.



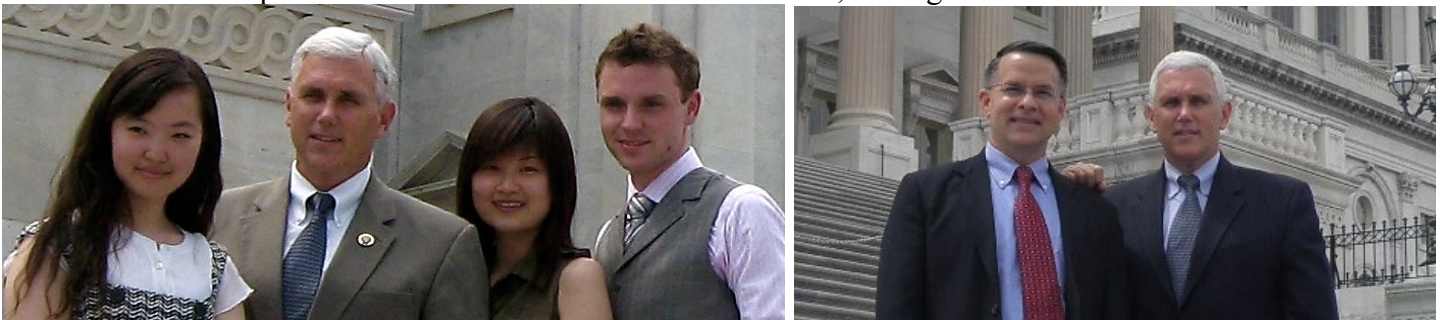
Above with Rep. Gohmert at the Capitol: left in 2010 and right in 2013 (in connection with his personal tours).



With Rep. Gohmert: above left in 2015; above right and below left in 2016; and below right in 2017.



Below with then-Rep. Mike Pence: left in 2009 with our students, and right in 2010 with Matthew.



In addition to Senators Durbin, Inouye, and Hatch, other participants from congressional leadership include Reps. Pelosi, Boehner, Hoyer, and Crowley. Many wrote support letters (see examples, next pages). As of 2018, the most active staff included: (a) leadership chiefs of staff (e.g., Cornyn's 7X, Boehner's 6X, McConnell's 5X, Hoyer's 4X, McCarthy's 4X, Scalise's 4X, Pelosi's 2X, Murray's 2X, Paul Ryan's 2X, Thune's 2X, Reid's 1X and Reid's deputy chiefs 7X) and (b) full committee staff directors (e.g., House Judiciary 10X, W&M 7X, For. Aff. 6X, and Senate HELP 9X, Approps. 8X, HSGAC 6X, Banking 5X, Commerce 5X, Finance 5X). Many have participated again since 2018. Most committee staff meetings are bipartisan: displaying multiparty democracy. See host list, photo galleries, support letters, and more at www.usasiainstitute.org/ruleoflaw/usprogram.

STENY H. HOYER
MAJORITY LEADER
5TH DISTRICT, MARYLAND



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515-6502

February 4, 2010

Mr. Matthew Szymanski
No. 66, Lane 168, Qingtong Road
Shanghai, China 201210

Dear Mr. Szymanski:

I am writing to affirm your volunteer efforts to teach law at Chinese universities and send some of your students to Washington, D.C. to observe America's legal system.

I met two such students, Catherine Sun and Emily Chang, last summer. I understand they also met many other representatives of our national legal system and observed official proceedings. Such first-hand exposure to international legal systems can only help China further develop its own.

As President Obama shared with university students in Shanghai last fall, we can learn much from each other. Rule of law exchanges are ideal vehicles for improving mutual understanding and problem-solving. Accordingly, the Joint Statement of Presidents Obama and Hu commits both countries to greater "cooperation in the field of law and exchanges on the rule of law."

I am happy to support such exchanges and meet more Chinese students in the future. With kindest regards, I am

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Steny Hoyer".

STENY H. HOYER

Editorial Note: Rep. Hoyer's leadership chiefs of staff have participated 4X.



Congress of the United States
House of Representatives

February 19, 2010

Matthew Szymanski
No. 66, Lane 168, Qingtong Road
Shanghai, China 201210

Dear Mr. Szymanski:

I am writing to recognize your program for introducing Chinese law students to the U.S. legal system. My office was happy to help receive Zheng Zhenhua in 2008 and Catherine Sun and Emily Chang in 2009.

As you know, the students were met by my longtime Chief of Staff, Paula Nowakowski, who sadly has passed away. It is a tribute to Paula's commitment to U.S. - China relations and the rule of law that she spent so much time with the students, explaining the role of a House leadership office in our constitutional, multi-party system. Paula knew this role well, having managed my leadership offices in both the majority and minority. The students could see how political competition can fuel policy development as surely as commercial competition fuels economic growth. China can unleash innovative policies through competition in the marketplace of ideas.

I understand the students met with many lawmakers, judges, prosecutors, and staff, and attended legislative and court proceedings. Such practical experience can help them develop China's own legal system, as many of them soon become judges, prosecutors, and lawmakers. I was pleased to learn that Mr. Zheng has received a judicial appointment.

We look forward to meeting more of your Chinese law students in the future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink that reads "John A. Boehner".

John A. Boehner

Editorial Note: Rep. Boehner's leadership chiefs of staff participated 6X.

Special Host from the Executive Branch: Secretary Ray LaHood



Above in 2010 with Secretary LaHood, a former Republican congressman serving a Democratic president.



Above left in 2011 with Secretary LaHood, after our 30-minute meeting in his office. Above right in 2012.



The remaining photos from our 2012 session are representative of our three meetings. Before sitting down to chat, he'd always stand at his picture of the president's cabinet and explain its role in the U.S. government.



Secretary LaHood was one of the most interactive, entertaining, and educational hosts in our program history.



We gratefully acknowledge former Transportation Secretary Ray LaHood for the 30 minutes of Q&A he gave us each summer from 2010-2012, and for his support letter below. For more info, including host list, photo gallery, and support letters, please visit www.usasiainstitute.org/ruleoflaw/usprogram.



THE SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION
WASHINGTON DC 20590

February 10, 2011

Mr. Matthew Szymanski
Vice President for Corporate Relations
Semiconductor Manufacturing International
Corporation
18 Zhang Jiang Road
Shanghai 201210
THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA

Dear Mr. Szymanski:

It was my pleasure to meet with you, Sarah Sun, Brad Liu, and Rains Xiao last summer. I was also pleased to learn that they met with many other representatives of our Government and attended many legislative and judicial proceedings. Such close interaction with established legal systems can help China further develop its own governmental processes while strengthening the relationships between American leaders and the future leaders of China.

I enjoyed visiting with your students, and I wish you continued success with this innovative and important program.

Sincerely yours,

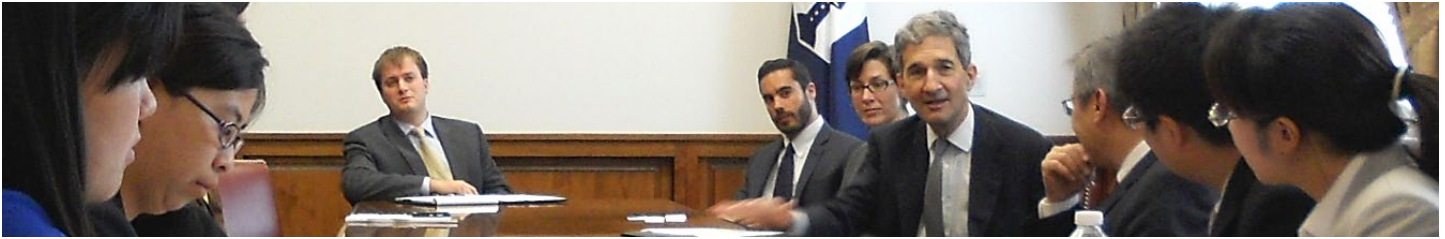
Ray LaHood

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to be "Ray LaHood", is written over the typed name.

Other cabinet-level participants have included former HUD Secretary Ben Carson, Energy Secretary Steven Chu, and former Acting Commerce Secretary Cameron Kerry (who briefly joined his brother, Secretary of State John Kerry, as a member of the president's cabinet). Other active hosts have included former U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco and FCC Chairman Ajit Pai. See pictures and letters below.



Above left in 2018 with HUD Secretary Ben Carson and right in 2012 with Energy Secretary Steven Chu.



Above in 2012, below left in 2011, and below right in 2013 with Acting Commerce Secretary Cameron Kerry.



Below in 2018 with U.S. Solicitor General Noel Francisco, a 10-time participant (3X as SG; 7X at Jones Day).



Lawyers of the Jones Day law firm have participated over 35X. Covington lawyers at least 9X.



Above in 2012 and below in 2016 with FCC Chairman Ajit Pai, a 6-time participant (2012-2017).



Mr. Kerry and Mr. Francisco each wrote support letters (below). Each went on to join us multiple times, as have many or most other hosts. Also like most other hosts, they are lawyers with diverse careers that have included public service. What has really impressed our Chinese law students is how much opportunity lawyers can have to pursue different interests and change career paths, even many times. What we have impressed upon the students, both Chinese and American, is their opportunity for public service at different points in their careers.



GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
Washington, D.C. 20230

JONES DAY

51 LOUISIANA AVENUE, N.W. · WASHINGTON, D.C. 20001-2113
TELEPHONE: (202) 879-3939 · FACSIMILE: (202) 626-1700

Direct Number: (202) 879-5485
jfrancisco@jonesday.com

February 14, 2012.

Mr. Matthew Szymanski
Senior Advisor
US-Asia Institute
232 East Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Mr. Szymanski:

I am writing in support of your summer program for Chinese law students in Washington, D.C.

It was a pleasure to meet with you and six of your law students in my office last summer. The students were impressive, full of curiosity, and offered intelligent questions about the American rule of law system. The depth and clear understanding demonstrated by those questions was refreshing and bodes well for future cooperation between the United States and China. I hope your students represent a trend among young professionals in China's law and government offices.

I look forward to seeing your program develop further.

Sincerely yours,

Cameron F. Kerry

JP009352:ayp

February 17, 2009

Matthew Szymanski
Vice President
Semiconductor Manufacturing Intl. Corp.
18 Zhangjiang Road
Shanghai, China 201210

Dear Matthew:

I was happy to support the program for your Chinese law student in Washington, D.C. last summer. Zheng Zhenhua was able to tour the Supreme Court and observe the justices at work in formal proceedings. He learned a great deal about the role of the United States judiciary and its highest court.

Having served in legal capacities at the Supreme Court, White House, and Justice Department, I know the importance of rule of law to the United States, and believe it is equally important to nations around the world. Your program for Chinese law students will help them contribute to the development of their own legal system.

Your program is timely and worthwhile. Please contact me if I may be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Noel J. Francisco

Many U.S. hosts are living examples of the equal opportunity that the rule of law can help to ensure.



Sen. Bernie Sanders, an *Independent* who joined us in 2008 and in 2009 (above), has twice run for President. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi, who joined us in 2012, remains the top female congressional leader in U.S. history.

For more photos and letters, visit www.usasiainstitute.org/ruleoflaw/usprogram.



We thank the State Department, especially former Acting Assistant Secretary for East Asian & Pacific Affairs Susan Thornton, who has participated six times and sent the below letter. The many participants from State in 2018 also included Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs Carl Risch, Legal Adviser Jennifer Newstead, Ambassador Sam Brownback, and Acting Deputy Assistant Secretary for Korea Mark Lambert. Also joining us in 2018 were former State Department Chief of Staff Margaret Peterlin and then-nominee for Under Secretary of State for Management Eric Ueland (who has participated 5X in various roles, including as Senate Budget Committee Staff Director and as White House Legislative Affairs Director).



United States Department of State

*Assistant Secretary of State
for East Asian and Pacific Affairs
Washington, D.C. 20520*

July 23, 2018

Matthew Szymanski
Senior Advisor
US-Asia Institute
232 East Capitol St. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Matthew:

I have enjoyed meeting with you and your small groups of Chinese law students these past few summers. The breadth of your network of U.S. Government participants, and the extent of your immersion of the students in U.S. legal and cultural activities, ensure the students take away lasting impressions of Americans, our leaders, and our rule of law. Those impressions could become critical to future U.S.-China relations as your students become leaders in their various spheres.

I remember the origins of this program in the early-to-mid 2000s, when you were managing the Small Business Committee and the U.S.-China Exchange for the House and I was serving as a U.S. Foreign Service Officer in China. You brought to China many delegations of U.S. lawmakers and aides, including unique intergovernmental staff delegations composed of aides of the House, Senate, and Administration. In all the time we worked together, I saw your passion to understand China and to help American policymakers understand China. A large part of your effort centered on events involving Chinese college students, as reflections of the present and leaders of the future.

I commend you and USAI for this D.C. Program for Chinese law students, and for your China Program for U.S. law students. I understand the D.C. Program just completed its 11th annual session and the China Program its 3rd annual session. I wish you and USAI the best with both.

Sincerely,

Susan A. Thornton
Acting Assistant Secretary of State



Special Host from the Judicial Branch: Supreme Court Justice Samuel Alito

Three members of the Supreme Court have participated, including Justice Jackson (4X), Justice Kavanaugh (3X), and Justice Alito (2X). Justices Jackson and Kavanaugh participated in their prior roles on lower courts.



On June 27, 2016, we viewed the Court's final session then met with Justice Alito for 30 minutes of Q&A.



Above and below: 2016 continued. Justice Alito graciously ensured that each student was able to engage.



On June 26, 2017, we viewed the Court's final session then met with Justice Alito for about 40 minutes of Q&A.





Above & below: 2017 cont'd. Afterward, Justice Alito signed the students' copies of the U.S. Constitution. They spent the rest of the summer gathering signatures from the other 23 presidentially-appointed judges they met.



2017 cont'd. Regrettably for our students, their final exams in mid/late-June prevent us from starting our program any earlier, which might enable more meetings with justices before they adjourn for the summer.



Below with then-Judge Ketanji Brown Jackson in 2015 & 2017. She participated in 2015, 2017, 2018, & 2019.



Below with then-Judge Brett Kavanaugh in 2017 & 2012. He participated in 2011, 2012, & 2017.



We have met with about half of all federal judges based in D.C., often after viewing one of their proceedings. The D.C. Circuit and District judges who have joined us three or more times include: John Bates, Jeb Boasberg, Tanya Chutkan, Thomas Griffith, Ellen Segal Huvelle, Amy Berman Jackson, Ketanji Brown Jackson, Brett Kavanaugh, Timothy Kelly, Royce Lamberth, Amit Mehta, Patricia Millett, Randolph Moss, David Sentelle, Sri Srinivasan, Emmet Sullivan, David Tatel, and Reggie Walton. We are especially grateful for the participation of Judges Lamberth (10X), Huvelle (9X), Srinivasan (8X), Boasberg (8X), and Sullivan (7X). The Federal Circuit judges who have joined us at least twice include: Chief Judge Sharon Prost and Judges Timothy Dyk and Richard Linn.

The D.C. Superior Court judges who have joined us at least twice include: Chief Judge Robert Morin (8X) and Judges Gerald Fisher (8X), Ann Keary (7X), Russell Canan (5X), and Henry Greene (2X). Please see host list.



Above in 2013 with Judge Ellen Segal Huvelle, who was our first judicial host in 2009 and has participated 9X.



Above in 2012 & 2013 with then-Chief District Judge Lamberth, who has participated 10X. Below in 2015 with now-Chief District Judge Boasberg and in 2017 with Chief Circuit Judge Srinivasan. Both have participated 8X.



Our students come from China's top schools: Beijing/Peking University (PKU), Tsinghua, and Shanghai Jiaotong. About half each summer come from PKU's School of Transnational Law, whose four-year graduate law program combines a Juris Doctor in American law with a Juris Master in Chinese law. Many U.S. judges have taught there.

This program began as an experiment in 2008. In his spare time, Matthew guest-lectured at East China University of Political Science & Law (ECUPL) with his friend, Prof. Sun Chao, who was the top official in Minhang District in central Shanghai. They taught U.S.-style law courses to bilingual ECUPL students at ECUPL, Minhang District Courthouse, Matthew's home, and elsewhere. See pics below. Many of their students expressed great interest in the U.S. legal system. They selected one to visit D.C. in the summer of 2008. The program grew from there.



Letters from some of our Chinese Alumni of the DC Program

Most of our Chinese alumni remain in China, working in law firms, academia, corporations, and public agencies. Some are based outside China, including in the U.S., in law firms, companies, and NGOs. Some have furthered their legal studies at Harvard, Georgetown NYU, Penn, and other schools, and several are licensed to practice law in New York. All hope to make positive contributions to China and to U.S.-China relations.

August 6, 2018

J. Matthew Szymanski
Senior Advisor, US-Asia Institute
232 East Capitol St. N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Matthew:

On behalf of all 53 alumni, I want to thank you and US-Asia Institute for your DC Program for Chinese law students (www.usasiainstitute.org/programs/j-matthew-szymanski-rule-of-law-program). As you know, I was a student participant in 2011 and returned the next summer as a USAI intern to help you with the 2012 program. You helped to arrange for me to stay with Steve Adkins that second summer and I became part of his family. I have attached here the letter that Steve sent you. It speaks for itself.

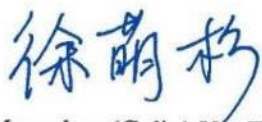
I will never forget the role you have played in my life, from teaching some of my undergraduate law classes at Shanghai Jiaotong University, to visiting my home and meeting my family in Shanghai, to selecting me for your program, to introducing me to your family and friends (such as Steve) in DC, to supporting my admission to the J.D./LL.M. program at the University of Pennsylvania, to your friendship.

My 52 colleagues all have similar things to say. You and USAI have supported our LL.M. admissions at Harvard, NYU, Georgetown, and many other U.S. law schools. You have supported our internships in DC with agencies such as World Bank and Superior Court. You have supported and guided us in many ways. For each of us, there are countless memories from our four intense weeks in DC, when you and the USAI staff served as our personal guides, meeting moderators, and cultural, legal, and political interpreters.

Some of us alumni are now lawyers in law firms (Western or Chinese). Some have government positions. Others work for NGOs or remain in school. For all of us, that month in DC was life changing.

I am working and living happily in New York with my wife and son. Thanks for being a part of my life.

Sincerely,



Mengshan (Colin) Xu, Esq.
Associate, Sullivan & Cromwell LLP
125 Broad Street, New York, NY 10004-2498
(212) 558-4743
xum@sullcrom.com

Attachment to Letter (above) from Mengshan (Colin) Xu:

Allen & Overy LLP
1301 K Street, NW
9th Floor, East Tower
Washington, D.C. 20005
Tel 202 683 3800
Fax 202 683 3999
Direct line 202-683-3965
Mobile 202-669-6630
Personal fax 202-683-3999
steve.adkins@allenoverly.com

April 3, 2013

J. Matthew Szymanski
Senior Advisor
US-Asia Institute
232 East Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Re: *Hosting Chinese Law Students in the Washington, D.C. Area*

Dear Matthew:

Congratulations to you and US-Asia Institute on building your rule of law program (<http://usasiainstitute.org/programs/j-matthew-szymanski-rule-of-law-program>), which brings Chinese law students to Washington, D.C. each summer to see the United States' system first hand. I have enjoyed being a modest part of it, as I expect have the many other Americans who have hosted meetings for your law students or written support letters for your program.

My family and I also enjoyed hosting one your students, Mengshan (Colin) Xu, in our home last summer while he interned for USAI. Colin has become a part of our family, even joining us during holiday breaks from his studies at the University of Pennsylvania Law School. We look forward to attending his graduation (number 1 in his class) next month. Colin is a fine young man, a potential future leader, and a reflection of the caliber of students chosen for your program. Knowing Colin has greatly enriched our lives. In fact, our son, Alden, calls Colin his "gege" (Chinese for "older brother.") I hope other Americans living in the Washington, D.C. area will consider hosting your students in their homes during future summers.

Kind regards,



Steven E. Adkins

August 9, 2018

Mr. Matthew Szymanski
Senior Advisor
US-Asia Institute
232 East Capitol St. NE
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Matthew:

As you know, I am one of the fifty-three Chinese students who have participated in the USAI-Szymanski Rule of Law Program. I want to thank you and the US-Asia Institute for one of the most important experiences in my life. It was more than just the meetings with senior U.S. Government officials. It was the warmth and friendliness of nearly all the Americans I met during that very busy month in DC.

After I participated in your 2012 summer program, I returned to China to complete my J.D. and J.M. degrees at Peking University School of Transnational Law (STL). As you know, because you've taught there, STL is the only institution in China approved to issue American J.D. degrees.

But I was hooked on America. I returned to DC to earn a graduate law degree at Georgetown University. You know because you supported my Georgetown application.

I passed the New York Bar Exam and for the past nearly three years, I have been working as a lawyer for the World Bank in DC.

Thank you for teaching my class at STL in early 2012 and choosing me for your program. It has changed my life.

With kind regards,



Derek Zhu, Esq.
Legal Associate
The World Bank Group
1818 H Street, NW
Washington, DC 20433

August 12, 2018

Mr. Matthew Szymanski
US-Asia Institute
232 East Capitol Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Matthew:

I was part of your summer program in 2014. During the four weeks, our group visited many institutions across Washington DC, watched trials and hearings, and met with congressional members and staff, executive officials, judges, prosecutors, law professors, private attorneys, and lobbyists. We were very busy!

I learned about the legal system and people of the United States. The program broadened my horizon and created an invaluable opportunity to build up my critical thinking skills. Moreover, it inspired me to contribute to developing our own rules-based system and promoting greater freedom and prosperity in China.

After that summer in DC, I returned to China to complete my graduate law degree at Shanghai Jiao Tong University. For the past three years, I have been working as a lawyer for the Shanghai office of the American law firm Sidley Austin LLP.

I want to gain more knowledge of the U.S. legal system. As such, I am now applying for LL.M. admission at American law schools. Inspired by you, I also want to become a part-time teacher/lecturer in a law school in the future to share my experiences in the private legal practice with future Chinese law students.

Thank you for your admirable contribution on founding and supporting this innovative rule of law immersion program.

Sincerely,



Peiwen (Penny) Zheng
Sidley Austin LLP Shanghai Office
peiwen.zheng@sidley.com
+86 21 2322 9337

August 22, 2018

Mr. J. Matthew Szymanski
Senior Advisor
US-Asia Institute
232 E. Capitol Street NE
Washington, DC 20003

Dear Matthew:

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to participate in the 2011 USAI-Szymanski Program. It is my pleasure to write this letter. Thank you for coming to Peking University School of Transnational Law (STL) for many years now.

After graduating from STL with Juris Doctor and Juris Master degrees in 2013, I worked one year in Shanghai and one year Hong Kong. In 2015-2016, I attended Harvard Law School to pursue my LL.M degree. I then worked in Cleary Gottlieb's Brussels office (doing EU antitrust law work) and am currently with White & Case's New York office (focusing on US antitrust litigation).

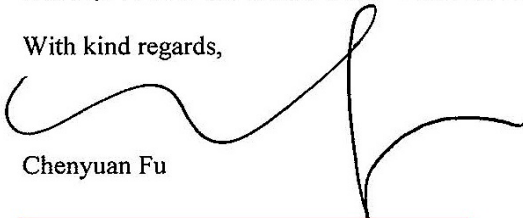
I still remember that fun July in 2011 vividly. That was my second time in US and everything felt so new and foreign to me. In the first couple of days, because of the jetlag, I sometimes had to pinch myself hard to stay awake during the meetings. When I became sick for two days, Teresa Vanfleet, a very nice USAI staff member, brought me advil along with tofu, broccoli, and white rice as she knew I was not used to American food.

I usually started my day by flipping through local newspapers while eating breakfast (Matthew mentioned that this is a morning ritual for people working on the hills). Me and five other students then traveled to 7 or 8 different locations for meetings or interviews. With Matthew herding the group, everything seemed seamless and we always made it to our next venue on time. I never counted the number, but overall we probably met more than 200 professionals from the Congress, the government, and court.

Through the program, I got to know Judge Ellen Huvelle from the District Court for D.C, who I have kept in touch over the years. She has provided me with tremendous support in my personal and professional life.

As you liked to say, we Chinese students were ambassadors to the United States. I hope to continue in that role, helping Americans and Chinese better understand each other and work together. Your program was a good start and I hope it grows and succeeds beyond all expectations.

With kind regards,



Chenyuan Fu

Editorial Note (added):
Chenyuan (Sarah) Fu
Associate, White & Case LLP
1221 Avenue of the Americas
New York, New York 10020-1095

September 12, 2018

J. Matthew Szymanski
Senior Advisor, US-Asia Institute
232 East Capitol Street, N.E.
Washington D.C., 20003

Dear Matthew:

I want to thank you and the US-Asia Institute for hosting the DC Program (<http://usasiainstitute.org/programs/j-matthew-szymanski-rule-of-law-program>). The month I spent in Washington with the US-Asia Institute was eye-opening and has brought enduring changes to both my career and personal life. I am confident my fellow alumni share similarly inspiring memories and feelings of gratitude. You have been a great mentor to all of us, providing guidance and advice to bolster our growth and development.

I was a student participant in the 2013 program, along with four other Chinese students. Although I had studied with both US and Chinese law faculties, this was my first time to the States and the first time I was able to closely observe how the US legal system functions. This experience has equipped me to look at bilateral issues in more rational and objective ways. Meeting with US students visiting China has also helped to further our understandings of different perspectives, and I firmly believe that what you and the US-Asia Institute are doing is having an ongoing positive influence on US-China relations.

Like my fellow DC program alumni, I have forged a number lasting friendship within this robust and trustworthy community. Perhaps most importantly, the experience and its memories continue to drive home my aim to remain open-minded and embrace differences. Indeed, the DC Program has helped me in cross-culture communication in my private practice, include to effectively help foreign clients operating in China.

Since graduating from the Peking University School of Transnational Law in 2014, I have been working with TransAsia Lawyers, a boutique law firm focusing on the TMT sector. I have been involved in the market entry of many notable technology and new economy companies, most of which are based in the States. I have also been involved in helping multinational companies negotiate with local governments related to investment agreements. My time in the program has helped me to better understand my clients' concerns and their mindsets, which in turn has enabled me to identify ways to help the companies and PRC local government reach agreement on foreign investment and operations.

I wish you and the US-Asia Institute the very best. There are many good things ahead and we should share the happiness, excitement, and fulfillment.

Best Regards,



Xiaxi (Roger) Li, Esq.

Associate, TransAsia Lawyers

Suite 2218

China World Office 1

1 Jianguomenwai Avenue, Beijing 100004

People's Republic of China

rli@transasialawyers.com

Letters from some of our American Alumni of the China Program

Our American alumni have come from the law schools of Columbia, Cornell, Duke, Georgetown, GWU, Michigan, Penn, UVA, and Yale. Most have now graduated and joined law firms, NGOs, or government agencies. We trust they all will be leaders in various spheres, including public service, when the time comes. The four alumni from 2018 sent the letter below.

October 30, 2018

J. Matthew Szymanski, J.D.
Senior Advisor, US-Asia Institute
232 East Capitol Street N.E.
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Matthew,

We hope you have been doing well since we met you last year. Thank you for inviting us to participate in the 3rd annual USAI-Szymanski Rule of Law Program for U.S. Law Students (what you call the “China Program”) this past summer. It was an honor.

Specifically, we wanted to thank you for giving us the opportunity of a lifetime to explore rule of law in China through visits to Hong Kong, Shenzhen, Shanghai, and Beijing. In each city, we met with an incredibly diverse group of lawyers, policymakers, judges, businessmen, and professors – both Chinese and non-Chinese.

Through these informative meetings we were able to see China through a new legal lens, and, more generally, to better understand what rule of law means in the American and Chinese contexts.

Thank you so much again for creating this unique program, and for making all of this research and discovery possible for us!

Sincerely,

Aaron, Allison, Daniel, and Nick
2018 USAI-Szymanski Rule of Law Program
U.S. Law Student Participants

Editorial Note (added 1/8/2020):
Aaron Levin, 3L, George Washington University Law School
Allison Rabkin Golden, 3L, Yale Law School
Daniel Justus, 3L, University of Virginia School of Law
Nick Kline, 3L, Cornell Law School