

WITNEY W. SCHNEIDMAN

EXPERIENCE

February, 2023

President & CEO, Schneidman & Associates International

Lead a consulting practice that advises companies and not-for-profits on enhancing their presence and impact in Africa.

2012- January, 2023

Senior Advisor for Africa & Former Chair, Africa Practice, Covington & Burling LLP

As a non-attorney, I have developed and led the firm's Africa Practice Group that consists of an office in Johannesburg and 100 firm attorneys who are active on projects in the 54 countries on the African continent.

2001-2012

President & CEO, Schneidman & Associates International

Led an independent consulting firm that advised American companies on investing in Africa and program development for not-for-profits active on the continent.

1997-2001

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for African Affairs, Bureau of African Affairs, U.S. State Department

Was responsible for economic and commercial issues in Sub-Saharan Africa and had regional responsibility for Southern Africa; managed the Office of Southern African Affairs and the Economic Policy Staff. Notable accomplishments include the passage and implementation of the African Growth and Opportunity Act, mobilizing U.S. diplomatic support for President Olusegun Obasanjo following his election as Nigeria's first democratic leader in twenty-five years, and working to implement the Lusaka Peace Accords in Angola.

1992-1997

Senior Vice President, Samuels International Associates

Worked with U.S. and African companies to help them trade and invest in African markets.

1991-1992

Consultant in the Office of the Vice President for the Africa Region, World Bank

Responsibilities included speech-writing and policy analysis for the Vice President of the Africa region and advising on the opening of a World Bank office in South Africa.

1990-1991

Senior Analyst, Investor Responsibility Research Center

Led on-site inspections of U.S. companies in South Africa to assess their compliance with the Sullivan Principles on behalf of university endowments and their decisions on stock divestment.

1987-1989

South Africa Analyst, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. Department of State

Analyzed developments in South Africa's transition from Apartheid to Democracy for the Secretary of State and other principals in the State Department.

CURRENT ASSOCIATIONS

Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Africa Growth Initiative, The Brookings Institution

Life Member, Council on Foreign Relations

Advisory Board, Economic Club of Africa in New York

Advisory Board, Friends of the Legal Resources Center, South Africa

Advisory Board, Good Governance Africa, South Africa

Advisory Board, African Centre for the Study of the U.S., University of Witswatersrand

Advisory Board, Africa Program, Woodrow Wilson Center for International Scholars

FORMER ASSOCIATIONS

Trade Advisory Committee on Africa, U.S. Trade Representative's Office

Africa Advisory Committee, U.S. Export-Import Bank

Senior Associate, Center for Strategic & International Studies

Board Member, U.S.-South Africa Leadership Exchange Program

Founding Board Member, Episcopal Relief & Development

Board Member, Corporate Council on Africa

Board Member, Emerging Public Leaders

Global Advisory Board, IREX

Global Advisory Board, Africa Leadership Academy

AWARDS

The Amos Lawrence Award, Lawrence Academy, Groton, MA, given to alumni for outstanding volunteer service to the School, May 2021.

PUBLICATIONS

Engaging Africa: Washington and the Fall of Portugal's Colonial Empire, (2004: University Press of America).

Have written extensively on African economic and political issues and have appeared on CBS News, CNN, National Public Radio, the BBC and the South Africa Broadcasting Corporation.

Brookings blogposts can be found here: www.brookings.edu/author/witney-schneidman/?type=posts

EDUCATION

1987: Ph.D., School of International Relations, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA.

1977: M.A., Department of Political Science, University of Dar es Salaam, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.

1975: B.A., Cum Laude, Department of History, Temple University, Philadelphia, PA.