Ron Kirk

U.S. Trade Representative and Former Mayor of Dallas

An Insider's View Of Politics. Ron Kirk is boisterous and entertaining as he analyzes the current political environment and the "facts on the ground." An insider with a reputation of being a coalition builder, he offers insights into how to get past the Washington gridlock and improve our economic future. With a unique vantage point from his nearly 20 years in national and local politics, he tells hilarious stories and offers audiences a unique perspective on the top political issues of the day, including revealing his thoughts on upcoming elections and the direction he would like to see for the country.

Diversity, Inclusion, and Race Relations in America. The first African American mayor of Dallas, former U.S. Ambassador, and respected member of President Obama's Cabinet, Ambassador Kirk frankly discusses race relations in the United States and the systemic problems that have allowed an overwhelming number of minorities to be left out of the economic system. In this passionate and eye-opening conversation, he candidly shares his personal experience and unique vantage point as not only a Black man in America, but also a former politician and policymaker and current corporate director, to discuss some of the most important issues facing the nation today, and offer ideas on how organizations can take action and adapt their hiring, spending, investing, and contracting to respond to these issues, make a difference, and create more opportunity for all.

Political Point/Counterpoint With Governor Haley Barbour. Ambassador Ron Kirk and Governor Haley Barbour join forces to analyze the current political environment. Together they tell hilarious stories and share interesting statistics, analyzing the "facts on the ground" in politics, positing likely election outcomes, and outlining what they each would like to see happen for the country. Fellow southerners with a love of politics and a lot of respect for each other, their larger-than-life personalities meld and clash at just the right moments, as Kirk's moderate Democrat and Barbour's Republican balance and push each other toward solving some of the top political issues of the day in an entertaining presentation that is not to be missed.

Trade, Jobs, Competitiveness, & Our Economic Future. With 95% of the world's consumer's living outside the US, Ron Kirk believes that trade is the strongest key to unlocking jobs and growth for our economy. In presentations, he ties together some of the most important issues facing the nation—jobs, the economy, global partnerships, workforce development and education, and energy dependence and delivers insights into international changes and competitiveness in the coming decade. Kirk explains to audiences how trade affects the marketplace and the American workforce. He also discusses how we transition from being the world's biggest consumer to the world's biggest supplier. Technology and innovation sit at the heart of that shift, and he addresses the role that science, technology, engineering, and math (STEM) education play in relation to employees' job

preparedness. Kirk also discusses how energy independence could allow the US to be choosier about our strategic partners. With vast insight and hilarious anecdotes, Kirk tackles the issue of trade and its related issues puts them into perspective for the business community.

Trade & Doing Business Doing Business In China. Kirk discusses the politics and policies of doing business with China and what the future holds for trade agreements between it and the US. He also addresses how that will impact American business and the American economy, including intellectual property rights issues. He argues that the global markets have two main choices for trading partners—the US and China, and we should be on friendly terms with the nation. He explains the complications in the relationship and takes an honest, hard look at what businesses can expect from doing business in China.