



Public Trustee Candidate

Amb. Jimmy Kolker, M.P.A.

Professional Experience

- Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso
- U.S. Ambassador to Uganda
- Associate Director, UNICEF New York Headquarters
- Deputy Global AIDS Coordinator, Office of U.S. Global AIDS Coordinator
- Career diplomat

Additional Information

- Visiting Scholar at Georgetown University's Center for Global Health Science and Security
- Visiting Scholar (2017–2019), American Association for the Advancement of Science
- Senior Associate (non-resident), Global Health, Center for Strategic and International Studies
- Member of several nongovernmental organization and foundation Boards of Directors

Biography

Ambassador Jimmy Kolker retired in January 2017 as Assistant Secretary for Global Affairs at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. In this role, he was the Department's chief health diplomat, representing the United States at World Health Organization meetings and as alternate Board Member of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria.

Ambassador Kolker had a 30-year diplomatic career with the U.S. Department of State, serving as the U.S. Ambassador to Burkina Faso (1999–2002) and to Uganda (2002–2005), where he was a key player in launching the U.S. President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (PEPFAR). From 2005 until 2007, he was Deputy Global AIDS Coordinator, leading the implementation of PEPFAR. In earlier tours, Ambassador Kolker was Deputy Chief of Mission at U.S. embassies in Denmark and Botswana and won awards for political reporting at posts in the United Kingdom, Sweden, Zimbabwe, and Mozambique.

From 2007 to 2011, Ambassador Kolker was Chief of the AIDS Section at UNICEF's New York headquarters. During this time, he led UNICEF's work on HIV and AIDS, focusing on mother-to-child-transmission of HIV, pediatric treatment, prevention among adolescents and young people, and protection for children and families affected by AIDS.

Since completing government service, in addition to the think tank affiliations mentioned above, Ambassador Kolker has been named to the boards of the ABInBev Foundation, Building Tomorrow, Firelight Foundation, the G4(Surgery) Alliance, and GlobeMed. He serves or served on advisory committees for Catholic Relief Services, Texas Children's Global HOPE (Pediatric Hematology and Oncology), Last Mile Health, and RAIN Uganda. He is also a volunteer high school debate judge for Washington Urban Debate League.

Ambassador Kolker holds an M.P.A from Harvard Kennedy School and a B.A., *magna cum laude*, from Carleton College in Minnesota. Carleton awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Humane Letters in 2019. He was a Thomas J. Watson Foundation Fellow (1970–1971). Ambassador Kolker speaks French, Swedish, and Portuguese.