

*U.S. - Saudi Arabian
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**Edward Burton, President
U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council**

Edward Burton was appointed President and Managing Director of the U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council in March 2006. In his position, he works with the public and private sectors to promote the interests of the U.S.-Saudi Arabian business relationship. The U.S.-Saudi Arabian Business Council was established in December 1993 to improve the mutual knowledge and understanding between the private sectors of the United States and Saudi Arabia, and to promote trade and investment between the two countries. The Council's activities include trade missions, conferences and seminars, and high level networking events. The Council also publishes updated documents including A Business Guide to Saudi Arabia, a bi-monthly newsletter, the U.S.-Saudi Business Brief, and specialized industrial sector reports. These activities are now focused on highlighting the more than \$1 Trillion in Saudi earmarked projects and market opportunities in Saudi Arabia over the next 20 years.

Prior to joining the Business Council, Mr. Burton served as the Commercial Attaché at the American Embassy in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia. He managed a staff of 27 officers, commercial specialists and other local direct hire personnel serving offices in the cities of Riyadh, Jeddah and Dhahran. He was responsible for all U.S. Foreign Commercial Service (USFCS) operations in Saudi Arabia and had oversight of all USFCS management, administrative and fiscal matters in the U.S. Embassy and Consulates in the Kingdom. He also supervised USFCS operations in Manama, Bahrain through a partnership arrangement with the U.S. Embassy in Manama. Mr. Burton was also appointed directly by former U.S. Commerce Secretary Donald Evans to serve as the USFCS Regional Coordinator for the agency's Iraq Reconstruction Regional Initiative.

Prior to being assigned to the Embassy in Riyadh, Mr. Burton was the Director of the U.S. Export Assistance Center in Philadelphia. Prior to joining the U.S. Department of Commerce, Mr. Burton served former New Jersey Governor Christine Todd Whitman as the State of New Jersey's International Trade Director.

Mr. Burton holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from the University of Charleston and a Doctor of Jurisprudence degree from the Dickinson School of Law. He practiced law in the State of New Jersey. He also received certified international trade and management training at the Thunderbird School of International Business and the Harvard Business School of Publishing.