



**Margaret Hanson-Muse
Commercial Counselor
U.S. Embassy - Bogota, Colombia**

Margaret ("Maggie") Hanson-Muse arrived in Bogota in July 2007. Born in Calcutta, India, Ms. Hanson-Muse is a second generation Foreign Service Officer who has previously resided in the Caribbean, West Africa, Latin America and India.

Following a 12-year private sector career, Ms. Hanson-Muse began working as a consultant for the Department of Commerce in Mexico City and joined the Commercial Service in 1993. Her previous assignments include Commercial Attache in Cote d'Ivoire where she also supported the Regional Commercial Counselor, assisting with event planning and advocacy efforts in a 23-country region. In India, she served Deputy Commercial Counselor overseeing activities in the heavy industry sectors and the US-Asian Environmental Partnership. She also started the regional program (Nepal and Sri Lanka) and handled the day-to-day administrative operations of one of the largest Commercial Service posts in the world.

Ms. Hanson-Muse has been an active participant in the free trade agreement negotiations with Costa Rica, Peru and now Colombia. In Costa Rica, she supported both the bilateral commercial relationship and built the Nicaragua Commercial Partnership program for the U.S. Embassy in Nicaragua. She participated in the CAFTA negotiations and also created a high impact "roadshow" that visited 20 U.S. cities to explain the benefits of free trade and trade compliance. In 2004, Ms. Hanson-Muse was awarded the ITA UnderSecretary's Award for Outstanding Professional, the Secretary of Commerce's Silver Medal Group Award for the successful CAFTA-DR negotiations and a Meritorious Award from the US Department of State for her CAFTA Rural Outreach Program in Costa Rica. In Peru, she participated in the US-Peru Trade Promotion Agreement negotiations (telecom and customs chapters) and helped to resolve numerous trade compliance and commercial disputes. In December 2006, Pfizer S.A. recognized Ms. Hanson-Muse was recognized with its first annual leadership award "for her exemplary support of U.S. business interests in Peru and outstanding defense of Intellectual Property rights". In May 2008, the US Department of State recognized her with her second Superior Honor award for "contributions resulting in the settlement of over \$300 million of commercial disputes, thereby paving the way for the US-PTPA". Since arriving in Colombia, she and her staff have organized and implemented four visits of the Secretary of Commerce accompanied by 60 members of Congress and staff in addition to the regular Commercial Service program.

Ms. Hanson-Muse's private sector experience includes sales, finance and marketing management positions with Sprint, General Electric and Allstate Insurance Company. Ms. Hanson-Muse is a *cum laude* graduate of Brandeis University with a B.A. in Spanish and Latin American Studies. She received her MBA in Marketing and Finance from the Graduate School of Business of Columbia University in New York. Ms. Hanson-Muse is fluent in Spanish and French. She has two daughters, Jessica Marie and Dana Catherine.