

Mickey Kantor

Mickey Kantor, formerly secretary of commerce and United States trade representative, is a partner in Mayer, Brown, Rowe & Maw LLP, an international law firm headquartered in Chicago. Kantor represents companies in corporate and financial transactions on a worldwide basis. He is based in the firm's Washington, DC office.

Kantor serves as a member of the board of directors of CB Richard Ellis. He also serves on the advisory board to ING Americas. He is a member of the international advisory board of Fleishman Hillard and the advisory board of Oilspace. He serves as a senior advisor to Morgan Stanley and is a member of the board of visitors for Georgetown University Law Center.

Kantor joined President Clinton's first cabinet on January 21, 1993 as the United States trade representative. He was the president's chief advisor on international trade policy.

Kantor was sworn in as the 31st United States secretary of commerce on April 12, 1996. As secretary of commerce, Kantor carried forward President Clinton's mandate to provide economic opportunity for American workers and businesses. At the helm of the Department of Commerce, Kantor worked to generate new jobs through increased exports and expanded markets abroad, to create a strong civilian technology infrastructure to promote sustainable development, to spur entrepreneurship, to stimulate the economic development of distressed communities throughout the nation and, through the regular reporting of vital statistical information, economic data and census data, to assist the private sector in keeping America strong and competitive.

Kantor served as national chair for the Clinton/Gore '92 Campaign and as a member of the transitional board of directors. He has a long history of public service, including membership on the Christopher Commission which was formed in the aftermath of the Rodney King beating in Los Angeles. Kantor also has served as consultant to the American Bar Association Special Committee on Crime Prevention and Control, the White House Conference on Children, and the National Legal Aid and Defender Association.

Kantor earned a bachelor's degree from Vanderbilt University in 1961. After four years of service as a naval officer, he went on to study law at the Georgetown University Law Center, and earned his degree in 1968.