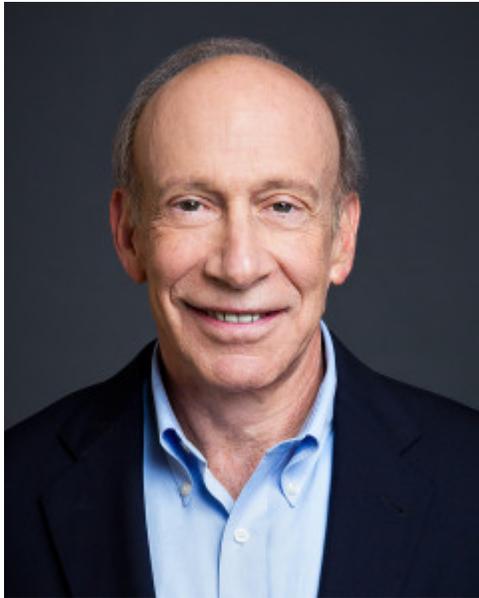


Ira Shapiro

Biography

Ambassador Ira Shapiro is the president of Ira Shapiro Global Strategies, LLC, and a senior adviser to the Albright Stonebridge Group. He has been deeply involved in U.S.-Japan relations for 30 years, having served as a principal U.S. trade negotiator with Japan during the Clinton administration and Chairman of the National Association of Japan-America Societies (NAJAS).



Ira Shapiro's career spans 40+ years and includes serving as ambassador under President Bill Clinton, founding a consulting firm specializing in international trade, and practicing international trade law in several major law firms. He also served in high-level positions for several United States senators and committees for 12 years.

Shapiro is the author of the critically acclaimed 2012 book, *The Last Great Senate*, and the 2018 book, *Broken: Can the Senate Save Itself and the Country?*

He came to Washington, DC in 1975, to work as legislative legal counsel to Senator Gaylord Nelson (D-Wisconsin), a leading environmentalist. Shapiro also served as Minority Staff Director to the Governmental Affairs Committee, Staff Director and Chief Counsel to the special Senate Committee on Official Conduct, Counsel to Senate Majority Leader Robert Byrd, and the first Chief of Staff for Senator Jay Rockefeller. He interned in 1969 for Senator Jacob Javits.

As General Counsel to United States Trade Representative Mickey Kantor in the early 1990s, Shapiro played a central role in the negotiation and legislative approval of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and the multi-lateral Uruguay round that created the World Trade Organization and the current trade rules. He then served as chief U.S. trade negotiator with Japan and Canada, with ambassadorial rank, and helped complete a series of major bilateral trade agreements with two of America's largest trading partners.

Mr. Shapiro has a long history of deep involvement in Democratic presidential campaigns, and was part of the legal teams that helped Bill Clinton and Al Gore **choose their vice presidents**. Mr. Shapiro ran an unsuccessful, but widely admired, race for Congress in Maryland in 2002. A local newspaper described his campaign as the "antidote to cynicism that he promised to deliver."

He writes and speaks frequently about U.S. politics, and particularly the U.S. Senate. After the publication of his book in 2012, Mr. Shapiro spoke in 19 states, including appearances at four Presidential Libraries (Kennedy, Ford, Carter and Clinton). His articles have been published in *The New York Times*, *Bloomberg Review*, *Washington Monthly*, *The Hill*, and *CNN.com*. He resides in Washington, D.C. For more information please consult: www.shapiroglobal.com.