



BIO Virginia Patton Prugh

Virginia Prugh, known as Patt, joined the U.S. Department of State's Office of the Legal Adviser in 2003, following a decades-long career as a lawyer in the United States Army. While on active duty, she held multiple positions, including Senior Trial Counsel, Senior Defense Counsel, and Chief of International Law. She served two years as the U.S. Army Europe Legal Liaison Officer to the U.S. Embassy in Paris, two years as the Deputy Commander U.S. Army Claims Service, Europe, three years as a Special United States Attorney, detailed to the Department of Justice, Civil Frauds Section, and four years at the NATO Command Allied Forces Southern Europe (AFSOUTH), in Naples, Italy. AFSOUTH was then responsible for NATO missions to Bosnia Herzegovina (BH), and as Deputy Legal Adviser at AFSOUTH, she was frequently deployed forward to provide legal advice during ongoing operations, including to IFOR and SFOR in BH, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as the Legal Adviser to the Kosovo Verification Coordination Cell (KVCC) and was subsequently detailed to Kosovo as the Acting Legal Adviser, NATO Forces Kosovo (KFOR).

Since joining the Office of the Legal Adviser, Office of Law Enforcement and Intelligence, Ms. Prugh has been the primary legal counsel providing advice and guidance to the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, the office of the State Department responsible for representing the United States at the Commission on Narcotic Drugs (CND) and other anti-crime fora in Vienna. A member of the U.S. delegations to each CND since 2006, she has also participated as the Head of the U.S. delegation to numerous intersessional meetings of the CND and, at the invitation of Singapore, participated in a panel discussion during a side event to address implementation of the three UN Drug Conventions.

In addition to the CND, Ms. Prugh has served on numerous U.S. delegations to United Nations conferences, including the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (CCPCJ), the Ad Hoc Committee of the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) negotiating the UNTOC Rules of Procedure, and all but one of the Conferences of Parties to the UNTOC. She has been a member of multiple U.S. delegations participating in the meetings of the Working Groups on Trafficking in Persons, Migrant Smuggling, and Firearms, including serving as the Head of the U.S. delegation at various times. She also participates on the U.S. delegation to the UN Convention against Corruption and its working groups on International Cooperation and Asset Recovery.

On three occasions, she has chaired the Working Group on Trafficking in Persons, most recently in 2022 when she shared responsibilities chairing the Working Group as well as the first Constructive Dialogue to be held following a meeting of the Trafficking in Persons Working Group, with H.E. Esther Monterrubio Villar, Permanent Representative of Spain to the United Nations.

An Adjunct Professor of Law at Georgetown University Law Center, Ms. Prugh is also a member of the Board of Trustees of Hastings College of the Law, University of California, San Francisco, California. She is the recipient of many awards, including the Defense Superior Service Medal, the NATO Medal, and numerous Superior Honor Awards.

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