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## Ian M. Houston

Executive director, American Foreign  
Service Association

**Thursday, 20 March**

**3:00 P.M.**

**238 HRCB**

Get an inside perspective and learn how to make it in Washington with careers in diplomacy and development.

Ian M. Houston is the executive director of the American Foreign Service Association (AFSA) and represents the views of the men and women of the U.S. Foreign Service as the senior operational director at AFSA. At AFSA, Houston has been a strong advocate for several Foreign Service professional issues, growing the size of the diplomatic corps, and in managing overall operations including financial, and reporting to an elected governing board. He has worked as an advocate for diplomats and their families for many years and has deep experience with foreign policy and international development and poverty reduction issues with government and nonprofits, including microenterprise and African small enterprise economic development. With a strong background in business and resource develop with USAID and the State Department, he has forged business relationships directly in-country with personnel in U.S. embassies, USAID missions, foreign governments, and various in-

ternational donors. Houston is an expert in the foreign affairs process in the U.S. Congress and the international affairs budget process having spent many years on Capitol Hill in a senior position and as an outside advocate. Dedicated to teaching college students over many years, he has taught public policy and international affairs college courses in Virginia. Houston received undergraduate and graduate degrees from Brigham Young University and the University of Kent in Canterbury, England in subjects focused on policy, political science, and international relations. He is a recipient of a Harry S. Truman Presidential Scholarship, Institute of World Affairs Scholarship, and received a commendation medal in the 1990s for public service from California's Governor for assistance to the Air Force National Guard. Originally from the San Francisco Bay Area and the son of immigrants, Houston and his wife Jolene, a college English teacher, are the parents of three children.