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Mr Robert Harris is Assistant Legal Adviser for East Asian and Pacific Affairs. In this position he provides legal advice to policy makers on legal issues related to US foreign policy in the Asia and Pacific region. Mr Harris has been a lawyer at the Department of State since 1985 and a member of the Senior Executive Service since 1992. At the State Department he has served as legal adviser and as head of delegation to more than 100 different bilateral and multilateral negotiations on topics such as migration, international aviation and trade in services, counterterrorism, counter-narcotics trafficking, extradition of criminal fugitives, mutual legal assistance in criminal matters, agreements for the protection and management of transboundary watercourses, maritime boundary delimitation, the international law of the sea, marine pollution and dumping at sea, transboundary environmental impact assessment, global environment protection (including persistent organic pollutants and other hazardous chemicals, biological diversity, biosafety, international conservation, and stratospheric ozone protection), sustainable development, international human rights, the protection of refugees, diplomatic privileges and immunities, and nuclear liability.

Mr Harris is an adjunct instructor of international law at the Antonin Scalia School of Law at George Mason University teaching public international law, and a Lecturer in Law teaching the international law of the sea at Columbia Law School. Mr Harris is a graduate of Cornell University (AB History), Princeton University (Masters in Public and International Affairs) and Stanford Law School (Juris Doctor).