



AMERICAN CITIZENS ABROAD
THE VOICE OF AMERICANS OVERSEAS

ACA, Inc. announces the recipient of the 2015 Thomas Jefferson Award

July 6, 2015, Washington, DC. ACA, Inc. announces Ambassador Michele Thoren Bond as the recipient of the 2015 Thomas Jefferson Award for outstanding service by a State Department employee to Americans abroad.

Ambassador's Bond's nomination noted her extensive work done on behalf of the American community in the Netherlands where she served as Principal Officer. During her tenure in the Netherlands, Michele worked tirelessly to create ongoing contacts with many American groups. Her natural impulse is to do her job with wisdom and ultimate professionalism while still relating to each person as an individual. She often traveled to different parts of the country to create "outposts" so that American citizens could more easily receive consular assistance.

Ambassador Michele Thoren Bond currently serves as the Acting Assistant Secretary of State for Consular Affairs, and was nominated by President Obama to serve permanently in that position in September 2014. She is a former Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho and also served in Guatemala City, Belgrade, Prague, Moscow, and as Principal Officer in Amsterdam.

Much of Ambassador Bond's career has focused on strengthening the Department's ability to assist U.S. citizens overseas, and on issues related to inter-country adoption. Washington assignments have included Deputy Assistant Secretary for Overseas Citizens Services, Director of Consular Affairs' Office of Public Outreach, and Director of Consular Training at the Foreign Service Institute.

Ambassador Bond received a Presidential Award for Meritorious Service in 2013, and the Mary A. Ryan Award for Outstanding Public Service in 2010. She and her team at the U.S. Embassy in Moscow received a national Public Service award in 1998 for their initiatives in support of adoptions in Russia and seven other formerly Soviet nations.

An honors graduate of Wellesley College, Ambassador Bond earned Masters degrees at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service and the National War College. She speaks Spanish, French, Serbian, and Swedish.

ACA, Inc. launched the Thomas Jefferson Award in 1994 to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Thomas Jefferson, America's first Secretary of State. Jefferson himself lived outside the new republic for many years while promoting the political, economic and intellectual interests of his

country. The impressive list of previous winners include personnel of all ranks based on all continents, each of whom has, through personal commitment, creativity and enthusiasm served, inspired and united "their" American communities. Check out previous winners at:

<https://www.americansabroad.org/about/awards/thomas-jefferson-awards/>

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