

Her Excellency Gillian M. S. Bristol
Ambassador of Grenada
to the United States of America

Biographical Summary



Her Excellency Gillian M. S. Bristol is a national of Grenada, born in that nation's capital of St George's to parents from St. Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago. She was educated at the prestigious St. Joseph's Convent High School in Grenada and Trinidad and Tobago, and obtained honors degrees in languages and law at the regional University of the West Indies studying in Barbados and Jamaica (B.A. and LL.B.). Ms. Bristol is a true West Indian in every sense of the word.

Ambassador Bristol is no stranger to the multilateral relations community of the Americas having served for nearly 17 years in several portfolios at the Organization of American States (OAS) based in Washington, DC, with a membership of the 35 independent countries in this region. Her initial role at the OAS in 1992 as Special Assistant to the then Assistant Secretary General, was followed by a lengthy tenure as Committee Secretary responsible for hemispheric security-related matters, and concluded with specialized programmatic work in a senior position at the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism.

In May 2009, Ms. Bristol was appointed by the Government of Grenada as its Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the United States of America as well as its Permanent Representative to the OAS. In those capacities Ambassador Bristol heads Grenada's Mission in Washington, DC, representing her country's interests to the Government of the United States and the other 34 other countries which comprise the OAS, and fosters closer relations between Grenada and Grenadians in the Diaspora throughout the United States. In August 2010, Her Excellency was also accredited as Grenada's non-resident Ambassador to Mexico and presented her credentials to the President in January 2011.

The Ambassador has held several elected posts at the OAS including representing Grenada as Vice-Chair and Chair of the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (March 2010 to March 2012) and President of the Retirement and Pension Fund Committee (2009 to present). Between January and June 2011 she assumed additional multiple roles as the Coordinator for the Caucus of CARICOM Ambassadors in Washington, DC, the Chair of the OAS Permanent Council, Chair of the OAS General Assembly Preparatory Committee and General Committee. She also presided over preparations for the Special General Assembly at which Honduras was reinstated to the regional body.

Among her interests Ambassador Bristol ranks the protection of fair labor practices as reflected in her successful roles in three different periods as President, Vice-President and member of the OAS Staff Association Committee. She also has a passion for empowering youth, and a love of culture, the performing arts and foreign languages.

Ambassador Bristol has one son and resides in Rockville, Maryland.

- ❖ *Presentation of credentials to the OAS, July 10, 2009* <http://www.oas.org/Photos/2009/07Jul/17/index.htm>
- ❖ *Presentation of credentials to the President of the United States, July 20, 2009*
<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/pix/protocol/127113.htm>
- ❖ *Maiden address to the OAS Permanent Council (video)*
http://www.oas.org/en/media_center/videos.asp?sCodigo=09-0186&videotype=&sCollectionDetVideo=3
- ❖ *Featured in prominent Washington, DC magazine Washington Life, October 2011, "Who's Next"*
<http://www.washingtonlife.com/digital/?issue=111004151352-b8c827a83eaf4e03b87065bb6f511cb3>
- ❖ *Featured on KaribNation.org's blog "Influential Caribbean Women –Pt. 3", October 2011*
<http://dcaribbeanbusinessdirectory.wordpress.com/2011/10/>