

Jendayi Frazer

Jendayi Frazer is the Duignan distinguished visiting fellow at the Hoover Institution Stanford University. She served as the U.S. assistant secretary of state for African affairs, 2005 to 2009, and special assistant to the President and senior director for African affairs at the NSC from 2001 until her swearing-in as the first woman U.S. ambassador to South Africa in 2004. Frazer previously served in government from 1998 to 1999 as a CFR international affairs fellow, first at the Pentagon as a political-military planner with the Joint Chiefs of Staff, working on West Africa during Nigeria's transition to civilian rule, and then as director for African affairs at the National Security Council, working on Central and East Africa. She was an adjunct senior fellow for africa studies at the Council on Foreign Relations from 2010 to 2025.

Frazer was a distinguished public service professor at Carnegie Mellon University, and assistant professor at Harvard University and University of Denver. Frazer received her BA in political science (honors) and African and Afro-American studies (distinction), MAs in international policy studies and international development education, and PhD in political science, all from Stanford University, and received an MBA from American University. She is the recipient of the Secretary's Distinguished Service Medal, the highest award bestowed by the U.S. Secretary of State. In July 2010, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia awarded Frazer with the distinction of Dame Grand Commander in the Humane Order of African Redemption in recognition of her contributions to end Liberia's civil war and restore peace and democracy to the country.