

## Michael Sfraga

Michael Sfraga is a three-time presidential appointee, Fulbright Scholar, author, public speaker, former think tank program director, and university executive. He was nominated by President Joe Biden to serve as the first U.S. ambassador-at-large for Arctic affairs, upon the recommendation of Senator Lisa Murkowski and later confirmed by a bipartisan vote of the U.S. Senate. Ambassador Sfraga was also twice appointed by President Biden as chair of the U.S. Arctic Research Commission. He previously served as the founding director and then chair and distinguished fellow of the Polar Institute, as well as director of the Global Risk and Resilience program, at the Wilson Center.

Ambassador Sfraga is a Fulbright Scholar, having codeveloped and twice served as colead scholar for the U.S. State Department's inaugural Fulbright Arctic Initiative. He has also played a central role in developing and growing the Munich Security Conference Arctic Security Roundtable.

Ambassador Sfraga held numerous administrative, academic, and executive-level positions and has spent nearly four decades working on Arctic-related issues. A geographer by training, his work has centered on the evolving domestic and international dimensions of the Arctic. Ambassador Sfraga continues to be called upon to inform important policy discussions such as the nexus of U.S. Arctic and foreign policy; the increasingly complex geopolitical and security landscapes of the Arctic; and the internationalization of the Arctic, including the inherent connections between the Arctic and the Euro-Atlantic, Indo-Pacific, North American, and Pacific regions.

Ambassador Sfraga has testified before Congress, maintains an active national and international speaking and facilitation schedule, and has been featured in major media outlets. He is the author of *Bradford Washburn: A Life of Exploration* (2004) and coeditor of the Wilson Center monograph *Navigating the Arctic's 7Cs* (2021), which explores the ambassador's conceptual framework for considering the key drivers of change in the Arctic.

Ambassador Sfraga earned his first doctorate in Northern studies and geography from the University of Alaska, Fairbanks.