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Stephen Gardner is the Managing Attorney for the Middle East and North Africa with the Commercial Law Development Program (CLDP), a division of the United States Department of Commerce Office of the General Counsel that assists the government, legal and business communities of countries in economic transition. CLDP programs are designed to foster development of policies, laws and skills needed to expand market-driven trade and investment in those countries.

Mr. Gardner joined CLDP in 1997 and has served as Managing Attorney for CLDP's programs in Romania, Ukraine, Moldova, Nigeria and Egypt. Mr. Gardner's professional background includes clerking for a District of Columbia Superior Court judge, managing a Central Asia joint venture investment project for Agricultural Cooperative Development International, working for Debevoise & Plimpton law firm in Budapest, Hungary, on project finance and privatization projects and assisting Gordon & Glickson law firm with legal issues regarding information technology and telecommunications.

Prior to joining CLDP in May 1997, Mr. Gardner received his LL.M. (with distinction) in International and Comparative Law from Georgetown University Law Center. He received his law degree in 1991 from Washington College of Law of the American University, where he was an editor for *The American University Law Review*. He also holds a Bachelor's Degree in Business Administration from the University of Wisconsin-Madison.