

FACC Team



Jack A Cowan - Executive Director

Jack A. Cowan is the Executive Director of the French-American Chamber of Commerce Pacific Northwest. He has broad experience in French business practices having lived and worked in French Polynesia for many years.

Mr. Cowan was named Honorary Consul of France for the State of Washington in July 1998. He was reappointed for another five-year term in 2013. A United States citizen of American and Tahitian origins, Mr. Cowan oversees the Consular Agency staff as well as discharging his diplomatic and consular duties.

In his dual capacity, Mr. Cowan works closely with the various governmental, economic, diplomatic and consular agencies both in France and the United States.

Mr. Cowan is a *magna cum laude* graduate of Belmont Abbey College, and holds a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Microbiology from Emory University and a Master's degree in Business Administration from the University of Washington. He also obtained a "Certificat Pratique de Français Commercial et Economique" awarded by the Paris Chamber of Commerce and Industry.

Mr. Cowan presently serves on the board of Directors of the French-American Chamber of Commerce. He is also an honorary member of the Board of Directors of the French-American School of the Puget Sound, Alliance Française de Seattle and the French Immersion School of Washington. He serves on the Trade Development Alliance of the Greater Seattle Advisory Board and the University of Washington French Studies Department Advisory Board.

In 2001 the government of France named him Chevalier de l'Ordre National du Mérite (Knight of the National Order of Merit.)

In July 2009 Jack A. Cowan obtained his French nationality.

In March 2012, he was awarded the Chevalier de l'Ordre National de la Légion d'Honneur (Knight of the National Order the Legion of Honor) by the government of France.



Julie Marraud des Grottes – Deputy Director

Julie Marraud des Grottes arrived in Seattle in September 2014 and has joined the FACC at the beginning of August as Deputy Director.

Prior to arriving in Seattle, Julie was an associate at SEH Legal, a Paris law firm. There she gained a broad expertise covering corporate and finance law, mergers and acquisitions, commercial law and litigation as well as negotiation, risk analysis and contract review and drafting.

Julie studied law at the Universities of Essex (LLB in English Law) and Nanterre (Master in French Law), she specialized in International Law at the *Institut de Droit des Affaires* of Aix-Marseille III and was admitted at the Paris Bar in 2010.

Julie is fluent in French, English and Spanish.



William Kouakou – Trade Attaché

William has joined the FACC team as a Trade Attaché since July 2015. He has been living in Seattle for one year and, he studied at the University of Washington for 9 months as part of an international exchange program. He is majoring in International Relations with a focus on International Economic Relations and Trade as well as International Organizations. William is a native of Lyon where he has earned a Bachelor degree, with a double major in Law and Political Science at the University Lyon 3. He previously interned for a Labor Union as a paralegal in France and also worked on an international marketing project for a food company in Seattle.

Post-graduation, William hopes to use his skills to work for French agencies enhancing economic relations between France and the United States.



Kelly Piriou-Lacascade – Events and Communications Assistant

Kelly joined the FACC in February 2015 as an Events and Communications Assistant but arrived in the Pacific Northwest in 2013, as she was an Au Pair for a year in Tacoma, WA.

Native of Paris, where Kelly got an Associate Degree in Sales and Production of Touristic product, and a Bachelor in Business Tourism and Event Planning.

Kelly worked in several companies during her diplomas where she was a trainee and has been an Event Planner for the past 7 years in the Parisian region; she has experience in planning corporate, cultural, incentive and touristic events.



Alexandra Wirth – US Intern

Alexandra has been at the FACC since February.

Alex graduated from the University of Washington with honors where I double majored in Art History & Comparative Literature: Cinema Studies, as well as minoring in French.

During university, she studied abroad in Paris. After graduation, she taught English and was an au pair for six months in Paris.

Alexandra hopes to continue my studies at the graduate level focusing on French Cinema.