



Biography of Erin B. Wirtanen

Department of State

Ms. Erin Wirtanen works for the Department of State working on foreign policy. In addition to her full-time position, Ms. Wirtanen is an Adjunct Professor at George Mason University where she teaches at the Schar Graduate School for their Master program in International Security Studies.

Ms. Wirtanen graduated from Syracuse University with a Juris Doctorate and Master of Public Administration in 1998. She graduated from University of California at Santa Cruz with a bachelor degree in Economics in 1994. Ms. Wirtanen served in the United States Air Force (USAF) from 1999-2007 as a judge advocate, to include multiple deployments. After the USAF, Ms. Wirtanen worked for the Department of State in Nairobi Kenya. She then practiced law with the CIA's Office Of General Counsel from 2011 to 2024. Recently she took a new position back with the Department of State on the policy side. She used to be an ultrarunner but now that she is older and wiser, she enjoys slow jogs around her neighborhood.