



March 2026 - Info Expeditior

### What's New?

- [Webinar: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly of Section 232 Tariffs](#)
- [U.S. launches fresh Section 301 Probes](#)
- [Pacific Coast Council Mission to Washington DC 2026](#)
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### Events Around the Bay

- [P.A.E.I](#) - Professional Association of Exporters and Importers  
[www.paei.org](http://www.paei.org).
- [OWIT NC](#) - Organization of Women in International Trade Check website for updates
- [Monterey Bay International Trade Association \(MBITA\)](#) - Monterey Bay International Trade Association  
Check Website for updates
- [Norcal W.T.C.](#) - The Northern California World Trade Center  
Check Website for updates
- [PTA](#) - Pacific Transportation Association  
Check Website for updates

### CBFANC Board of Directors

**President - Director:**  
Chris Ramos  
**Chairperson of the Board:**

### Webinar: The Good, The Bad and The Ugly of Section 232 Tariffs

*Education Committee*

**Only 24 Hours Left to Register**

**CBFANC Presents**

## SECTION 232 TARIFFS

**Join us for an essential webinar on Section 232 tariffs—impact assessment, timeline updates, and best practices for your business. In addition, IEEPA refunds and possible future tariff measures will also be discussed.**

**The Good, The Bad and The Ugly of**

**Don't miss this opportunity to equip yourself with the latest insights!**

#### FORUM DETAILS

**Date: Wednesday, March 18th, 2026**

**Time: 10:00 AM – 11:30 AM (PST)**

**Location: Online Webinar**

#### Featured Speaker

**George R. Tuttle, III, Esq.**

#### REGISTRATION & PARTICIPATION

**CBFANC & LACBFFA Members — \$35.00**  
**Non-Members — \$60.00**

For LACBFFA members when registering, please use code "LACBFFA" for member pricing

The meeting link will be provided the day before webinar

1.5 education points for CCS/CES/LCB

#### KEY TOPICS TO BE DISCUSSED

Sung (John) Lee  
**1st VP - Director:**  
Sarah Stroth  
**2nd VP - Director:**  
Lori Azzopardi  
**3rd VP - Director:**  
Peter Gong  
**Treasurer:**  
Chris Garcez  
**Secretary-Director:**  
Sung (John) Lee  
**Director:**  
Felicia Addison  
**Director:**  
Liz Chapman  
**Director:**  
Mindy Li  
**Director:**  
Yunjie (Jenny) Zhao  
**Senior Advisor:**  
Evey Hwang  
**Secretariat:**  
Debbie Edwards

### CBFANC Social Media

Please connect with us!

- **X Formerly Twitter - [@cbfanc](#)**
- **LinkedIn - [Customs Brokers and Forwarders Association of Northern California \(CBFANC\) | Groups | LinkedIn](#)**
- **Facebook - [CBFANC](#)**

- ◆ **IEEPA Tariff Refunds:** Advanced discussions on refunds under IEEPA and possible future tariff measures.
- ◆ **The Valuation Challenge:** How to properly determine value for 232 goods when the tax applies only to specific metal content.
- ◆ **Interaction Rules:** Understanding when Section 232 duties stack with [Section 301](#) or other reciprocal tariffs.
- ◆ **CBP Entry Team Protocol:** Strategies for proactive communication with CBP import entry team specialist regarding guidance on the steel content and the non-steel content.

### Q&A session to address specific concerns and scenarios



**George R. Tuttle, III** is an attorney with the San Francisco Bay Area law firm of Tuttle Law.

The firm's practice centers on international trade regulation and customs law. Our practice is global and includes matters originating both in and outside the United States.

His practice, for the past 38 plus years, with emphasis is on Customs, international trade regulation, and export compliance matters for importers, exporters, brokers and forwarders. He has a wide range of experience in customs matters, including customs duties, tariff classification, value, marking, and penalty cases involving such diverse products as electronics, textiles, and food products. He also works with companies on "other agency" compliance issues, such as TSCA, FDA and FCC, related to imported products. He assists importers, brokers, and exporters develop and implement trade compliance programs, participates in Customs' Importer Self-Assessment (ISA) program, C-TPAT, and prepares for Focused Assessments and audits by CBP and other governmental agencies.

Mr. Tuttle has been speaker on Customs and Export matters for various trade and education groups, including PAEI, WIT-NC, AAIE, ICPA, NCBFFA and various West Coast Customs Brokers associations on numerous occasions.



[REGISTER HERE](#)

## U.S. launches fresh Section 301 Probes

Courtesy of Anniek Bao, CNBC



### **U.S. launches fresh Section 301 probes into 60 economies over forced-labor trade practices**

The U.S. on Thursday launched new trade investigations into 60 economies to determine if they have failed to curb imports of goods made with forced labor, a day after it initiated unfair trade practices probe into 16 partners.

The new investigations, conducted under Section 301(b) of the Trade Act of 1974, include China, the European Union, India and Mexico, according to a statement from the United States Trade Representative.

“Despite the international consensus against forced labor, governments have failed to impose and effectively enforce measures banning goods produced with forced labor from entering their markets,” U.S. Trade Representative Jamieson Greer said.

“These investigations will determine whether foreign governments have taken sufficient steps to prohibit the importation of goods produced with forced labor and how the failure to eradicate these abhorrent practices impacts U.S. workers and businesses,” he said.

Section 301 permits the U.S. to impose tariffs on countries found to have engaged in unfair trade practices without additional congressional authorization — legal authority that U.S. President Donald Trump had used during his first term to levy duties on Chinese goods.

To read article in its entirety, click [here](#).

### **Pacific Coast Council Mission to Washington DC 2026**

*Sung*



As usual CBFANC was Johnny on the spot when it comes to picking the time and date of the PCC mission to Washington DC. This time for the Mission was on Tuesday, February 24<sup>th</sup> and the Supreme Court struck down IEEPA tariffs on February 20<sup>th</sup> Friday. Excellent timing indeed.

Mission attendees pictured here starting from the left is Sarah Stroth, Sung "John" Lee, Chris Ramos, Peter Gong, Yunjie "Jenny" Zhao from CBFANC.

When we got to DC, everyone was about the State of the Union address to be given that evening and the ramifications of the SCOTUS IEEPA decision.

We were all wondering what Justice Cavanagh meant by 'messy' process because we did not think that the current known process of getting refunds via protest, Post Summary Correction, Reconciliation would be slow but not messy.

But after reading some of the articles published that day, one specifically written by 'The Hill' news publication did mention that some GOP members were trying to smear the refunds as 'corporate welfare' or that it would not look good for the President to refund to "Chinese companies" Sen. Bernie Moreno (R-Ohio).

There are also reports that the DHS shutdown could be resolved via 2<sup>nd</sup> budget reconciliation where congress can get a chance to direct how the refunds could be made along with other trade business.

On our busy schedule, we visited Rep. Kevin Mullin, Sen. Adam Schiff, Rep. Jared Hoffman, Rep. Lateefah Simon, Senate Finance Committee staff, Sen Padilla offices and met with their staff.

All in all, democrats are for fast un-messy refunds so that is great and hoping for the best.



## State of the Port 2026

*Evey Hwang, CBFANC Senior Advisor*



*From left to right, our 2026 CBFANC Board and Committee Members\* pictured with CBP, San Francisco Port: Mindy Li (Mega Brokers); Chris Garcez (TLR); Sung "John" Lee (SW Logistics); Evey Hwang (CHB); Debbie Edwards (CBFANC Secretariat); Lori Azzopardi (EFI Logistics); Acting Port Director Jason Adams (CBP); CBFANC President Chris Ramos (Alba Wheels Up); Acting Assistant Port Director Jeffery Anderson (CBP, Tactical); Assistant Director Dora Murphy (CBP, DFO-Trade Operations); Sarah Stroth (Stroth & Associates); Felicia Addison (Green Worldwide); Yunjie "Jenny" Zhao (Great Way Trading) | Not pictured: Board member Peter Gong (Great Way Trading); Liz Chapman (CHB)*

On January 29, 2026 CBFANC's annual State of the Port dinner welcomed our San Francisco Port Acting Port Director Jason Adams, our Surety partners as presenters and our 2026 exhibitors and sponsors connecting guests and our 2026 CBFANC board members! Our **2026 Ruby sponsor KlearNow.AI, Jade sponsors Reform, Pax AI, and Caspian** exhibited. CBFANC Education Committee also had an exhibit table and featured our January 27th FDA Workshop with **Deep SenGupta (DSG), Vera Dickinson (Innov-Q) and Tom Sidebottom (Regulatory Sciences)**. We hope our new venue Westin San Francisco Airport in Millbrae, provided a fresh place to network and refresh connections for all!

After welcoming attendees, CBFANC Sr Advisor, Evey Hwang, offered an introduction on CBFANC's students initiative. In

2024, CBFANC advanced a nice connection with San Francisco State University formed with professors from **SFSU Lam Family College of Business**. Last year, CBFANC welcomed 20+ students from their business program as members and our board member Peter Gong set up a SFSU accredited "internship" program through his company, Great Way Trading. Thursday we invited a group of SFSU students to attend our annual event. We were also pleased to welcome **Cal Poly Maritime** cadets (from the Cal Poly Maritime Propellor Club) to join our event for networking opportunities.

CBFANC President Chris Ramos introduced our State of the Port head tables. We were honored to have **Acting Port Director Jason Adams (CBP, San Francisco Port); Acting Assistant Port Director Jeffery Anderson (CBP, Tactical); Assistant Director Dora Murphy (CBP, DFO-Trade Operations)**. Our surety panelists were: **Lisa Perez, Vice President, Regional Operations, Western Region with Avalon Risk Management; Patrice Lafayette, Regional Vice President, Western Region, Roanoke; Ed Mascher, Managing Principal, Transportation & Logistics Practice, Epic; Danielle Fournier, Senior Account Management Specialist, International Bond & Marine.**

Next Chris introduced our 2026 CBFANC Board of Directors. Our volunteer board members welcome your input and invite members to join one of our committees.

Title	Name	Company	Telephone	Email
President - Director (TE-12/2028)	Chris Ramos	Alba Wheels Up Inc	(650) 281-4317	<a href="mailto:info@cbfanc.org">info@cbfanc.org</a>
Chairperson of the Board - Secretary - Director (TE-12/2026)	Sung (John) Lee	SW Logistics	(510) 777-9000	<a href="mailto:export@cbfanc.org">export@cbfanc.org</a> , <a href="mailto:ocean@cbfanc.org">ocean@cbfanc.org</a>
1st VP - Director (TE-12/2026)	Sarah Stroth	NF Stroth & Associates LLC	(415) 982-0920	<a href="mailto:customs@cbfanc.org">customs@cbfanc.org</a> , <a href="mailto:education@cbfanc.org">education@cbfanc.org</a>
2nd VP - Director (TE-12/2027)	Lori Azzopardi	EFI Logistics	(415) 344-4831	<a href="mailto:airport@cbfanc.org">airport@cbfanc.org</a> , <a href="mailto:customs@cbfanc.org">customs@cbfanc.org</a>
3rd VP - Director (TE-12/2027)	Peter Gong	Great Way Trading	(510) 896-2818	<a href="mailto:membership@cbfanc.org">membership@cbfanc.org</a> , <a href="mailto:export@cbfanc.org">export@cbfanc.org</a>
Treasurer	Chris Garcez	TLR - Total Logistics Resource Inc	(415) 398-4380	<a href="mailto:finance@cbfanc.org">finance@cbfanc.org</a>
Director (TE-12/2026)	Mindy Li	Megabrokers Inc	(650) 438-7467	<a href="mailto:agency@cbfanc.org">agency@cbfanc.org</a>
Director (TE-12/2027)	Felicia Addison	Green Worldwide Shipping LLC	(650) 348-2211	<a href="mailto:newsletter@cbfanc.org">newsletter@cbfanc.org</a>
Director (TE-12/2028)	Liz Chapman	Clearfreight	(650) 491-9533	<a href="mailto:newsletter@cbfanc.org">newsletter@cbfanc.org</a>
Director (TE-12/2028)	Jenny Zhao	Great Way Trading	(510) 896-2818	<a href="mailto:education@cbfanc.org">education@cbfanc.org</a> , <a href="mailto:website@cbfanc.org">website@cbfanc.org</a>
Senior Advisor	Evey Hwang	Evey Hwang CHB	(650) 281-4317	<a href="mailto:ocean@cbfanc.org">ocean@cbfanc.org</a>
Secretariat	Debbie Edwards	CBFANC	(510) 864-2233	<a href="mailto:debbie@cbfanc.org">debbie@cbfanc.org</a>

This year we invited our partner sureties for a timely and necessary discussion of how 2025's trade policy challenges. On behalf of the surety panelists, Lisa with Avalon began the discussion with a synopsis of the impact from increased tariffs on bond saturation, stacking, financials affecting all sureties. Patrice, Ed and Danielle also gave examples of having to navigate through each tariff. All were enjoined on message for satisfying bond insufficiency notice with the critical financial requirements timely.

Next, Chris Ramos introduced Acting Port Director Jason Adam who joined San Francisco Port earlier last year. We were grateful to have Port Director Adams gave some updates with some stats. We soon appreciated PD Adams presenting on the human factor in CBP, the Customs Border Protection. This CBP is still engaged in trade services and enforcing cargo violations while having to implement tariff requisites, often within days, from some 40 Executive Orders in 2025. After his remarks, Acting PD Adams, with Acting Assistant PD Anderson and DFO Assistant Director of Trade Murphy assisting, took questions

from the audience. Susan Ransom with SSA/OICT offered appreciation for CBP steadfastly working with the trade and port community. After question on pending 2027 retirements, PD Adam confirmed that current San Francisco staffing was optimum but yes, CBP will need to step up recruitment to prepare for those retirements (from the 2007 CBP hiring initiative with the 20 years retirement age-out). When asked, we appreciated his response on agreeing the estimated 5000 workforce (needed by 2028) could recruit some of the students in the room! A nice affirmation for CBFANC networking efforts on behalf of the students joining our State of the Port!

This year our (usual) raffles started quite enthusiastically(!) with raffle prizes (fun!) from our networking exhibitors: **KlearNow.AI; Caspian; Reform; Pax**. We are truly grateful for the thoughtful (and joyful) prizes and we sincerely hope this year's networking effort netted terrific connections. We hope recipients of CBFANC raffle enjoyed their prizes including 5 CBFANC education events and extra from our FDA workshop, from **Innova-Q**. We are so grateful for the (continued!) generosity from our board member **Mindy Li, with Mega Brokers**, the beautiful centerpieces. The orchids have become quite a prize for one lucky attendee, per table!

On behalf of CBFANC Board of Directors, we are grateful for everyone who joined our annual State of the Port dinner event and thank our sponsors for their support! See you all next year!



[Acting Port Director, Jason Adams BIO](#)

**Ocean Report**

*Sung "John" Lee*



**Ron Brown from Port of Oakland reports following container report.**

- **Stable overall cargo volumes in 2025**

**The Port of Oakland closed the year with cargo volume essentially flat compared to 2024, reflecting resilience amid uneven global trade conditions.**

- **December 2025 snapshot**
- **Total containers handled: 179,580 TEUs, down 1.7% vs December 2024.**
- **Full containerized cargo: 140,050 TEUs, down 3.0%.**
- **Loaded imports declined 12.8%, while loaded exports rose 10.9%.**
- **Empty containers increased 3.4% reflecting year-end equipment repositioning.**
- **Full-year 2025 results**
- **Total volume: 2,253,976 TEUs, a modest -0.4% change compared to 2024.**
- **Imports slightly down 0.9%, exports slightly up 0.1%.**
- **Cargo mix was balanced 50/50 imports and exports for the year.**
- **Full containers made up roughly 77% of total volume.**

**Overall Theme: Despite softness in some monthly metrics (especially imports in December), the Port maintained stable cargo throughput in 2025, with export strength helping balance weaker import demand and a nearly equal import/export split for the full year.**

### **CBFANC Needs YOU!**

*Join a CBFANC COMMITTEE*



### **CBFANC Needs YOU!!**

Please feel free to contact us with your feedback, ideas and topics that should be considered.

Whether you're a legal eagle or proverbial party animal, editor

and journalist, nerd or geek - we have a spot for you!

Join one of our committees where you can put your talents and interest to use for the betterment of the organization and our community.

Travel to Washington and lobby for causes important to our industry and the security of our country.

Dreaming of improving standards in our trade - join our Education team:

- Go to WESCCON - The premier international trade event in the country!
- Write that expose you always dreamed - join the Newsroom
- Always wanted to hob-knob with the who's who in the trade - join The Agency or Customs
- Are you a graphic designer at heart - come to the virtual side of things on our web committee

To learn more about our wonderful committees and find an area you would like to volunteer for, please click [here](#). As always, any questions at all, please reach out to us at [info@cbfanc.org](mailto:info@cbfanc.org). Thank you!