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NAFTA Renegotiation Status Update: Third Round Of Talks Conclude In Ottawa, Fourth Round Begins In Washington On October 11

Patrick J. Togni

The third round of talks on “renegotiation and modernization” of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) was held in Ottawa, Canada, from September 23-27, 2017. According to a [Trilateral Statement](#) on the Conclusion of the Third Round of NAFTA Negotiations, the negotiators “made significant progress in several areas through the consolidation of text proposals, narrowing gaps and agreeing to elements of the negotiating text.” [More »](#)

President Trump Issues Order Prohibiting Chinese Company Acquisition Of U.S. Semiconductor Business

Elizabeth Owerbach

On September 13, 2017, President Trump issued an [Executive Order](#) prohibiting the acquisition of U.S. company Lattice Semiconductor Corporation (Lattice) by a group of companies, including Canyon Bridge Fund I, LP (CBFI); CBFI’s subsidiaries, CBFI’s limited partner, Yitai Capital Limited (Yitai); and Yitai’s parent company, China Venture Capital Fund Corporation Limited. President Trump took this action [pursuant to](#) legislation that allows the President “to suspend or prohibit certain acquisitions of U.S. businesses by foreign persons where he finds that there is credible evidence that the foreign interest exercising control might take action that threatens to impair national security,” provided other areas of law are insufficient. [More »](#)

Venezuela Sanctions Update: U.S. Government Sanctions PdVSA

Betre Gizaw

On August 24, 2017, President Trump issued [Executive Order 13808](#)

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- U.K. Revenue And Customs Head Testifies On Post-Brexit Border And Customs Issues
- CBP Responds To Adverse Weather Events

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(E.O. 13808) titled “Imposing Additional Sanctions With Respect to the Situation in Venezuela” and the Department of the Treasury’s Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC) released frequently asked questions clarifying certain items related to the Executive Order. As we have previously outlined, E.O. 13808 prohibits certain transactions involving the Venezuelan Government, defined broadly to include Petroleos de Venezuela, S.A. (PdVSA), and any other entity owned or controlled by the Venezuelan Government. [More »](#)

News of Note

- **U.K. Revenue And Customs Head Testifies On Post-Brexit Border And Customs Issues** – [Saud Aldawsari and Alexandra Carr](#) – On September 14, 2017, the United Kingdom (UK) Parliament Treasury Committee met with Her Majesty’s Revenue & Customs (HMRC) officials to discuss the customs implications of the United Kingdom’s exit from the European Union (EU). [More »](#)
- **CBP Responds To Adverse Weather Events** – [Benjamin Bay and Quinn Bailey](#) – The 2017 hurricane season has been a particularly active one, with Hurricanes Harvey, Irma, and Maria causing widespread destruction wherever they made landfall. U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) proactively issued a series of Diversion Guidance messages and took other steps to assist the trading community. [More »](#)

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