

Marcia Bloom Bernicat '75



*Foreign Service Officer,
U.S. Department of State*



As Human Resources Senior Level Division Chief, Marcia Bernicat manages the ambassadorial and other senior staffing selection processes at the State Department. A native of New Jersey, she attended Lafayette College in Pennsylvania where she completed a Bachelor of Arts degree in History, and earned a certificate to teach social science at the secondary school level in 1975.

Instead of teaching, however, Ms Bernicat took advantage of a unique opportunity and joined the Procter and Gamble

Company as a manager in the Liquid Cleaners Department at their manufacturing plant on Staten Island, New York. Marcia helped plan and execute several chemical formula advances and modernization of the mechanical packing line during her stint at P&G. After gaining two years of private sector managerial experience, she earned a Master of Science Degree at Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in 1980.

While still a graduate student, Marcia received her first taste of life in the U.S. Foreign Service as an intern in the Economic Section at the U.S. Embassy in Monrovia, Liberia. Entering the Service in 1981, her first tour was in Bamako, Mali, also in West Africa. In addition to her consular and political reporting responsibilities, Marcia directed a military training program and a discretionary assistance fund, which helped villagers complete small-scale development projects.

During her second tour in Marseille, France, Marcia reported on political developments, served as the Post's Administrative Officer and oversaw a security construction project, in addition to providing consular services. She returned to Washington, D.C. in 1986 to serve in the State Department Operations Center, and subsequently as Special Assistant to former Deputy Secretary of State John C. Whitehead.

In August 1988 Marcia Bernicat joined the India Desk in the Department of State as the Nepal Desk Officer and Political-Military Officer for India. Following a year of graduate studies in South Asian Affairs at the University of California-Berkeley and a year of Hindi language training, she served a three-year tour in New Delhi, India as Deputy Political Counselor following Indian domestic politics. Marcia advanced U.S. commercial interests during her tour as Consul General in Casablanca, Morocco from 1995-1998. Serving as Deputy Chief of Mission in Malawi, she helped direct Post's efforts to put in place HIV/AIDS awareness and prevention programs for both Malawian citizens and Embassy staff, and coordinated peacekeeping training and security assistance for the Malawi Army. Marcia arrived in Bridgetown, Barbados on September 5, 2001, also as post's Deputy Chief of Mission. Days later she helped increase interagency efforts to curb money laundering and put into place stronger counter terrorism efforts throughout the Eastern Caribbean to protect the U.S. third border.

Most importantly, Marcia Bernicat is the mother of two twelve year old sons. She enjoys teaching adult literacy, traveling, and sewing. Her languages include French, Hindi and Russian.