

Linda Jewell served as Ambassador of the United States to the Republic of Ecuador from 2005 to 2008. Prior to that assignment she was Deputy Assistant Secretary of State in the Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs and Director of the Office of Policy Planning and Coordination for the Bureau. From 1999-2002, she served as Deputy Chief of Mission at the U.S. Embassy in San Jose, Costa Rica.

Ambassador Jewell joined the Foreign Service in 1976 after a stint in publishing at Prentice-Hall, Inc. She began her overseas career with USIA as Educational Exchanges Officer in Jakarta, Indonesia. She has also served as Economics Program Officer in Mexico City and as Press Attaché in New Delhi and Warsaw. Her Washington positions included assignments to the Mexico/Central America desk and a year at the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced International Studies, where she received a Masters Degree in International Public Policy. She was Deputy Director of the Office of Western Hemisphere Affairs of United States Information Agency for one year before assuming her post as Director of the office from August 1997 to June 1999.

After retiring from the State Department in 2008, Ambassador Jewell became the Executive Vice President of the non-profit organization International Student Exchange Programs (ISEP), whose mission is to increase the number of study abroad exchange programs among a large network of colleges and universities. She retired from ISEP in 2015.

Ms. Jewell is a native of Little Rock, Arkansas, and a graduate of Yale University. She is married to John Walsh, a retired Foreign Service officer and teacher. They have two children.