

### **Michael J. Courts**

Michael J. Courts is a Government Accountability Office (GAO) director in the agency's International Affairs and Trade team. Mr. Courts began his career in GAO's San Francisco Office and served overseas in the agency's former European Office as well. Since 2003, he has directed GAO reviews of a wide range of U.S. government operations and programs in the international arena to assist the Congress in carrying out its oversight responsibilities. Mr. Courts has testified before congressional committees on the results of GAO's work on the transition to a civilian-led U.S. presence in Iraq and efforts to protect U.S. government personnel and facilities overseas. Mr. Courts' past work has led to concrete improvements in a number of areas, from strengthening efforts to prevent terrorists and criminals from obtaining U.S. passports to rethinking alternative development programs in Latin America to enhancing the operations of international exchange programs. His contributions have been recognized with numerous GAO awards, including a Meritorious Service Award and an Assistant Comptroller General Award. Mr. Courts earned a Master's degree in national resource strategy from the Industrial College of the Armed Forces at National Defense University. He is a graduate of American University's School of Public Affairs Key Executive Leadership Program. He received his Bachelor's degree with honors in business administration from California State University at Sacramento and was inducted as a member of Beta Gamma Sigma International Honor Society.