KEYNOTE ADDRESS - 2026 ANNUAL SUMMER RECEPTION

America First and a New Geopolitical Order:
a whistle-stop tour of a world in flux

Charles Myers, Chairman and Founder, Signum Global Advisors

Charles Myers, chairman and founder of Signum Global Advisors, returned to Quorum 15's Annual Summer Reception on 24 June to deliver a fantastic keynote that fully lived up to its billing: a very short sprint through nearly every geopolitical flashpoint shaping markets in 2026.

A veteran of three decades in US politics and global finance, and former advisor to the Clinton and Biden presidential campaigns, Charles brought his trademark blend of political insight, erudite wit and market pragmatism to an eager cross-market audience seeking insights in a year dominated by volatility-inducing headlines. .

Kicking off, Charles posited the central thesis that most historical frameworks for understanding a Republican US administration simply don't apply to Trump 2.0. "America First" was never just about domestic priorities, it rests on the two pillars of aggressive economic nationalism (per continuation of tariffs) and the assertive pursuit of energy security, rare earths, semiconductors, underscored with a revitalised **Monroe Doctrine** across the Western Hemisphere.

A world tour of flashpoints

In a very short time, the keynote moved rapidly across the world map. January's removal of Maduro in Venezuela was described as a textbook example of the US administration's pattern: Negotiate first, escalate if talks stall. Faster-than-expected increases in Venezuelan oil output were noted as a near-term consequence of this action, alongside a longer path of debt restructuring, and the eventual transition to democratic governance.

On Iran, Charles was candid that the conflict had not seemed to go to plan and the administration underestimating Tehran's resilience and leverage created by control of the Strait of Hormuz and a ceasefire framework that is more favourable to Iran than initially anticipated.

Cuba and Greenland were framed as potentially next on the administration's agenda - the former carrying signficant execution risk and likely friction with Russia; the latter requiring pragmatic negotiation over access to critical minerals, rather than the more dramatic “demands” that have been reported in the media.

On Ukraine, he points to three converging forces: White House urgency, Kyiv's exhaustion, and pressure within Russia's own power structure which make a ceasefire plausible before year-end - alongside a significant European reconstruction opportunity that will run into the hundreds of billions of dollars over the next decade.

This whistlestop tour ended with China and Taiwan. Describing the US-China bilateral relationship as “healthier than it has been in two decades” Charles cautioned nonetheless that the Taiwan question is a live, long-term risk that is being deferred, rather than resolved.

Back home: Midterms, markets and where the risks lie

Back on his home ground, Charles offered an especially direct take on the forthcoming midterms (November), predicting: a Democratic House majority (pretty much the consensus in Washington), with a Senate battle hinging on just four states. Scenarios involving a divided Congress, the debt ceiling and the political risk of impeachment proceedings were all framed as factors investors should track through year-end.

Charles reiterated a broadly optimistic stance on US growth and equities, citing substantial fiscal stimulus, resilient corporate earnings and continued deregulation as supportive forces. He was also clear-eyed about the risks lurking beneath the surface: persistent inflation, stretched private credit markets and the scale of current AI infrastructure investment among them, suggesting that the Federal Reserve's policy stance should be watched closely in the months ahead.

A lively Q&A retouched on prediction market reliability, the political outlook for the UK under a prospective Andy Burnham government, and the growing role of AI and data centres..

Few speakers can compress this much ground into thirty minutes without losing the room. In 2026, Charles reminded us once more why his unique perspective draws the crowds. Given global demand for his exceptional insights and oratory, we are honoured to have the privilege of his continuing participation in flagship annual event.

This summary is a confidential record of commentary delivered on 24 June. The views summarised are those expressed by Charles Myers in his individual and personal capacity as keynote speaker at the Quorum 15 Annual Summer Reception. We do not represent, claim or warrant that these representations are accurate. This content is for information only; it does not constitute financial, investment, or political advice from either Quorum 15 or Sigma Advisors.

ABOUT CHARLES MYERS

Charles Myers

Chairman & Founder, Signum Global Advisors

Charles Myers is Chairman and Founder of Signum Global Advisors, the leading geopolitical risk firm headquartered in New York and London with five additional offices around the world.

As Chairman of Signum Global, Charles works with financial institutions and multi-national businesses to anticipate and assess policy agendas and outcomes. Areas of expertise include US foreign policy and the implications for Europe and Asia. Charles also forecasts global trade policy, energy dynamics and regulation within the financial, energy and technology sectors in the US, UK and Europe.

Charles also has over 26 years of US political and electoral experience advising candidates in Presidential, Senate and House of Representatives races, including Hillary Clinton for President 2016 and Joe Biden for President 2020. He also has 30 years of experience in banking and the global financial markets.

Formerly Vice Chairman of investment bank Evercore, he was the Founding Partner & Head of their Institutional Equities business. Prior to that, Charles served as Global Head of Equities and Board Member at Fox-Pitt, Kelton and worked at UBS and Barings London.

Charles served two terms on the Board of Trustees of the Central Park Conservancy in NY, the Board of the Mayor's Fund for NYC, and the NYC Host Committee for the 2024 Democratic Convention.

Charles is currently a member of the Economic Club of New York as well as the Bretton Woods Committee. Charles has a BA from Amherst College in Massachusetts and a post-graduate M. Phil degree from Cambridge University in England. He divides his time between New York City and London.

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