



The Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties supports the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) as it secures the nation while preserving individual liberty, fairness, and equality under the law.



DHS Welcomes New Secretary Jeh Johnson

On December 23, 2013, Jeh Charles Johnson was sworn in as the fourth Secretary of Homeland Security. As Secretary, Johnson oversees the third largest Federal department in the United States and leads the 240,000 men and women dedicated to implementing the Department’s important homeland security mission.

Prior to joining DHS, Secretary Johnson served as General Counsel for the Department of Defense, where he was part of the senior management team and led the more than 10,000 military and civilian lawyers across the Department. As General Counsel of the Defense Department, Secretary Johnson oversaw the development of the legal aspects of many of our nation’s counterterrorism policies, spearheaded reforms to the military commissions system at Guantanamo Bay in 2009, and co-authored the 250-page report that paved the way for the repeal of “Don’t Ask, Don’t Tell” in 2010.

Secretary Johnson’s career has included extensive service in national security, law enforcement, and as an attorney in private corporate law practice. He was General Counsel of the Department of the Air Force from 1998 to 2001, and served as an Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of New York from 1989 to 1991.

In private law practice, Secretary Johnson was a partner with the New York City-based law firm of Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison LLP. In 2004, he was elected a Fellow in the prestigious American College of Trial Lawyers, and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. Secretary Johnson graduated from Morehouse College in 1979 and received his law degree from Columbia Law School in 1982.

CRCL and ICE Launch Next Phase of Medical Care Inspection Tool

Since 2011, CRCL has worked with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and the ICE Health Service Corps (IHSC) to develop an inspection tool that IHSC can use to assess the quality of medical care provided in immigration detention facilities. The inspection tool focuses on aspects of medical care where errors pose a significant risk of harm to patients, and the tool will be used as an adjunct to other inspections and assessments that look at the structural elements of care. CRCL engaged the assistance of one of its medical experts to develop the tool, which was completed in collaboration with IHSC.



In the next phase of this work, CRCL and IHSC will collaborate on training DHS personnel regarding the use of the tool as IHSC develops its program to implement the inspection tool.

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CBP Announces Revised Family Declarations Rule

U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) is committed to securing our borders and facilitating lawful international trade and travel. In keeping with its mission, [CBP recently broadened its definition of “members of a family residing in one household,”](#) to more accurately reflect relationships for U.S. citizens, residents, and international visitors who are traveling together as a family. The expansion of the term will include long-term same-sex couples and other domestic relationships which would allow more returning U.S. citizens, residents, and international visitors to file a joint customs declaration for items acquired abroad. Read more at: www.cbp.gov/travel.

Violence Against Women Act Guidance

DHS has released a [new policy reaffirming its commitment to ensuring full compliance with the Violence Against Women Act \(VAWA\)](#), specifically concerning the confidentiality provisions under 8 U.S.C. § 1367 of the Act, which recently was amended to provide an exception to the disclosure of information to national security officials who have access to protected information regarding VAWA, T, and U visa petitioners and applicants. This policy sets forth Department-wide guidance that builds consensus on how to address the confidentiality provisions of §1367, coordinates efforts to administer laws preventing violence against women, and implements best practices across DHS Components.

In addition to the new policy, DHS launched the Council to Combat Violence Against Women in March 2013. The Council serves as a forum to coordinate Department-wide efforts to combat violence against women and ensure the effective administration of laws preventing the violence. Through this Council, CRCL will work with Components to implement mandatory training for DHS personnel that regularly interface with the issue of §1367 confidentiality, including CBP, ICE, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS). For more information about the Department’s efforts to combat violence against women or the DHS Council to Combat Violence Against Women, contact VAWA@hq.dhs.gov.

January is Slavery and Human Trafficking Prevention Month



Every year, [millions of men, women, and children are trafficked for sexual or labor exploitation worldwide](#), including the United States. Through the [Blue Campaign](#), DHS Components combine their efforts to effectively combat human trafficking through enhanced [public awareness](#), [training](#), [victim assistance](#), and [law enforcement](#) investigations. By expanding our collaboration within the Department, as well as among domestic and international governments, law enforcement, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector, DHS is helping to protect victims from being trafficked both within the United States and around the world.

DHS Components work across their missions to combat human trafficking every day. [ICE](#) investigates both international and domestic human trafficking cases. [USCIS](#) provides immigration relief to trafficking victims. The [Federal Law Enforcement Training Center](#) provides training to law enforcement professionals on how to identify indicators of human trafficking and how to conduct human trafficking investigations. [CBP](#) is in a unique position to detect trafficking on our borders, as are [U.S. Coast Guard](#) on the high seas, the [Transportation Security Administration](#) in airports, and [Federal Emergency Management Agency](#) in disaster areas.

This January, Deputy Secretary Mayorkas participated in an interagency Human Trafficking Survivor Forum at the White House. During this event, the Administration released the [Federal Strategic Action Plan on Services for Victims of Human Trafficking in the United States](#), recommitting their efforts to continue the fight to stop human trafficking and aid victims of this heinous crime.

CRCL on the Road, December – January

December 4 – Seattle, Washington

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

December 12 – Denver, Colorado

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

December 18 – Tampa, Florida

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

January 9 – Atlanta, Georgia

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

January 16 – Malaysia

CRCL participated in a training program on countering violent extremism.

December 10-11 – Phoenix, Arizona

CRCL presented at the DHS-International Association of Chiefs of Police conference on countering violent extremism.

December 12 – New York, New York

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

December 18 – Madrid, Spain

CRCL led a New York City stakeholder delegation to Madrid in the first phase of a community engagement exchange program with the embassy.

January 16 – Los Angeles, California

CRCL convened its quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

January 27-31 – Athens, Greece

CRCL will participate in a training program on religious tolerance, in support of United Nations Human Rights Council Resolution 16/18.

Additional information, and contacting us

The goal of this periodic newsletter is to inform members of the public about the activities of the DHS Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, including: how to make complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via an email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. We also post information pulled from the newsletter on a webpage, [CRCL at Work](#). If you would like to receive this newsletter via email, want to request back issues, or have other comments or questions, please let us know by emailing crcloutreach@dhs.gov.

If you are on this list, but no longer wish to receive this newsletter, please send an email to the same address asking us to unsubscribe you. For more information, including on how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, see www.dhs.gov/crcl.

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