

HOMELAND SECURITY LAW TRAINING PROGRAM

(HSLTP-601)

Presenter Bios

Joseph Maher currently serves as the Principal Deputy General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Under the General Counsel, Mr. Maher advises the Secretary and other senior leaders on a wide array of homeland security and other matters. Mr. Maher joined the Department shortly after its creation, and he has served there in a number of legal positions, including as the Associate General Counsel for Regulatory and Legislative Affairs and as a legal advisor to the Department's Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties. Mr. Maher has practiced law in the private sector at an international law firm where he litigated cases in both trial and appellate courts. He has also practiced law at the U.S. Department of Labor, serving first as a Special Assistant to the Solicitor of Labor and then as the Associate Deputy Solicitor of Labor. Prior to law school, Mr. Maher applied his training as an engineer in working for Material Sciences Corporation. Mr. Maher graduated with honors from both the University of Chicago Law School, where he served on the *Law Review*, and Northwestern University (earning a degree in Materials Science and Engineering). He also holds a Master of Laws degree (National Security Law) from Georgetown University. After law school, he clerked for the Honorable E. Grady Jolly on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit.

Topics:

- Introduction to Office of General Counsel
- Overview of the Homeland Security Act
- Ten Important Things DHS Attorneys Should Know or Do

John F. Havranek is the Associate General Counsel for Operations and Enforcement at the Department of Homeland Security, Office of General Counsel and is an Appellate Judge for the U.S. Coast Guard Court of

Criminal Appeals. As the Associate General Counsel for the Operations and Enforcement Law Division, John is responsible for providing legal advice concerning DHS enforcement matters, international law, national security matters, operations, and all-hazards incident management, including the provision of legal support to aid in the development and management of policies, plans, exercises, training, and incident management. Secretary Napolitano appointed John to the Coast Guard Court of Criminal Appeals on May 2, 2011. John retired from the U.S. Marine Corps where his last assignment on active duty was serving as the Deputy Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, specializing in operational law, the law of war, and detention operations. During his military career, John served as a Staff Judge Advocate, prosecutor, defense counsel, appellate counsel, and Military Judge. John Havranek is originally from Fremont, Nebraska and is a graduate of Creighton University and the Creighton University School of Law.

Topics:

- Law Enforcement Authorities of DHS
- Practical Exercise Lead
- DHS Response to Emergencies and Disasters
- DHS International Law
- Immigration Issues

Dana Ledger is a Senior Counsel with the U.S. Secret Service and manages the agency's ethics and appropriations law program. He joined the Secret Service 2008; prior to joining the agency, Mr. Ledger clerked for a U.S. Magistrate Judge. He received his law degree from The George Washington University, a master's degree from Columbia University, and a bachelor's degree from Gettysburg College.

Topics:

- Law Enforcement Authorities of DHS

CMD Eric Masson (USCG) graduated from the U.S. Coast Guard Academy in 1997 with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Management. Upon graduation, he was assigned to the CGC DAUNTLESS (WMEC 624) as a Deck Watch Officer. In addition to his Deck Watch Officer duties, CDR Masson was a boarding officer and conducted countless boardings to ensure the safety of mariners enforce the laws of the U.S. In 1999, CDR Masson was assigned to the International Training Division (ITD) in Yorktown, VA. While assigned to ITD, CDR Masson attended Spanish Immersion Training in Antigua, Guatemala and leveraged his fluency with deployments throughout South and Central America. He deployed as team leader to more than twenty nations in support of the President's National Strategic Policy, including extended deployments to Bolivia to provide program oversight to U.S.-funded counter-drug forces. Additionally, he deployed on numerous mobile training teams as an instructor in boarding officer tactics and maritime law enforcement procedures. In 2003 CDR Masson was accepted to the Coast Guard's Advanced Education Program for Financial Management. He attended the Mason School of Business at the College of William and Mary and earned his Masters of Business Administration degree in December of 2004. He then reported to the Comptroller Division at the Engineering Logistics Center (ELC) in Baltimore, MD where he served as the budget execution team leader overseeing a \$125 million budget and as the internal audits team leader improving internal and external controls as part of the Chief Financial Officer audit. While working at the ELC, CDR Masson began attending evening law school at the University of Baltimore in 2005. He received his Juris Doctorate (cum laude) in 2008 and was subsequently admitted to practice in the State of Texas. CDR Masson reported to the Maintenance and Logistics Command, Legal Division in 2008. While there he completed a year-long assignment to the Naval Legal Service Office – Mid-Atlantic as a defense attorney representing Navy and Marine Corps clients at general and special courts-martial as well as at administrative separation boards. He then continued his practice in military justice as a trial counsel at the Legal Service Command where he prosecuted general and special courts-martial and represented commands at administrative separation hearings and boards of inquiry. CDR Masson then rotated to the Atlantic Area legal staff where he advised the Area commander and units on operational law, military justice matters and general law issues. In 2011, CDR Masson was assigned as the first U.S. Coast Guard judge advocate at U.S. Southern Command. While assigned to U.S. Southern Command, CDR Masson advised the Combatant Commander on maritime law, counter-drug, and

counter- terror issues; to include the Presidentially-certified Air Bridge Denial program with Colombia. CDR Masson was selected to serve as a military judge for the Coast Guard in 2012. He continues to serve as an active member of the Coast Guard trial judiciary. CDR Masson began his current assignment as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate to the Seventh Coast Guard District in 2013.

Topics:

- Law Enforcement Authorities of DHS
- DHS Response to Emergencies and Disasters

Virginia Clay is a 1990 graduate of the College of William and Mary, where she earned a BA in History. She taught U.S. History to high school students for six years before attending the University of Pennsylvania Law School. At Penn, Ms. Clay was a member of the *Law Review*, a legal writing instructor, and earned her JD *summa cum laude* in 1999. After law school, she served as a law clerk to the Honorable Francis Murnaghan on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Ms. Clay worked in private practice in Pennsylvania for two years before joining U.S. Customs and Border Protection in 2003 as a General Attorney and legal instructor with the Office of Assistant Chief Counsel (Training) in Glynco, GA. She now serves as a Senior Attorney for CBP.

Topics:

- Immigration Issues and DHS
- Law Enforcement Authorities of DHS

Pamela Eclar Diequez is an Associate Legal Advisor for U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of the Principal Legal Advisor, where she advises Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) Special Agents on various issues, including identity and benefit fraud, worksite enforcement, surveillance, and exploitation crimes. From 2009 to 2011, she was a Program Manager at ICE HSI Office of International Affairs,

Exploitation Crimes Unit, and provided policy guidance and technical assistance in human trafficking, forced labor, asylum fraud, and visa security. Prior to joining ICE, Ms. Diéguez was an Asylum Officer from 2007 to 2009 at U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Office of Refugee, Asylum, and International Operations. A former military officer, Ms. Diéguez received a Navy Reserve Officer Training Corps commission in 1999 and served in the Civil Engineer Corps until 2004, completing assignments as the Environmental Officer at Submarine Base Kings Bay, GA and Assistant Resident Officer in Charge of Construction at Naval Air Station Oceana, VA. Ms. Diéguez holds a Bachelor of Science in Civil/Environmental Engineering from The George Washington University. She received a Juris Doctorate from the University of the District of Columbia (UDC) David A. Clarke School of Law, where she served as an Associate Editor of the UDC Law Review. Ms. Diéguez is a graduate of the Presidential Management Fellows Program, and is a member of the Maryland State Bar and the Maryland State Bar Association Criminal and Immigration Law Sections.

Topic:

● Law Enforcement Authorities of DHS

Brian Itami joined the Transportation Security Administration in August 2012 and currently serves as the Special Legal Assistant to the Chief Counsel and an Attorney-Advisor for Criminal Enforcement. In his Criminal Enforcement role, Brian's primary focus is the Fourth Amendment and the application of search and seizure law to TSA's activities, including screening checkpoint, Visible Intermodal Prevention and Response team, and canine operations. A native of Los Angeles, California, Brian received a J.D. from Harvard Law School, a Master of Arts in Security Studies from the Georgetown University School of Foreign Service, and a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science from Duke University.

Topic:

● Law Enforcement Authorities of DHS

Elise L. Jones graduated from Northwestern University with a Bachelor's degree in Communication Studies in 2004. She earned her J.D from Mercer University, Walter F. George School of Law in 2008. Following law school, Elise worked as an Employment and Labor Attorney in the Office of the Staff Judge Advocate (JAG) at Robins Air Force Base, GA. There, she represented the agency before the Merit Systems Protection Board and the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission. Additionally, she worked as a Legal Assistance Attorney providing legal advice to military members and their dependents. At Robins, she also served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney (SAUSA) prosecuting misdemeanor crimes. Elise previously served as a Legal Intern for Commissioner Deborah Taylor Tate at the Federal Communications Commission. Elise's hobbies include dance and theater. Elise is licensed to practice law in Illinois.

Topic:

● Labor & Employment Law

Letitia Byers is a labor and employment attorney from the Washington, D.C. area, with over eleven years of experience practicing in the field of labor and employment relations. She is currently working with DHS's General Law Division's Labor and Employment group at the NAC, where she defends the Department against complex and sensitive Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) complaints and Merit Systems Protection Board appeals (MSPB); reviews and comments on labor and employment policies and legislation with potential Department-wide impact; and advises management on labor and employment matters.

Prior to DHS, Ms. Byers spent many years with the U.S. Department of Justice's (DOJ) Federal Bureau of Prisons (BOP) and Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA). While at BOP, she successfully defended the Agency against countless union grievances and arbitrations and MSPB appeals; provided training to BOP managers on the Agency's collective bargaining agreement; and routinely advised management on labor matters. Similarly, while at DEA, she defended the Agency in numerous EEO and MSPB cases and, as a Senior Attorney, continued to advise key management officials.

In addition to her labor and employment experience, Ms. Byers has worked closely with several U.S. Attorney's Offices across the country to defend DOJ against Federal Tort Claims Act and *Bivens* suits and inmate *habeas corpus* petitions. In doing so, she had the opportunity to work at the federal detention center in Miami, Florida, for almost 2 years.

Topic:

● Labor & Employment Law

John Dermody is an Attorney-Advisor with the Intelligence Law Division of the Office of the General Counsel for the Department of Homeland Security. He primarily supports the DHS Office of Intelligence and Analysis, focusing on departmental information sharing issues and information sharing agreements with the intelligence community. Before joining DHS he was an Associate Deputy General Counsel at the Department of Defense.

Topic:

● Information Sharing and Safeguarding

Michael O. Halas is an attorney-advisor in the Office of the General Counsel of the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS), focusing on cybersecurity and infrastructure protection. Before his current position, he rotated through the legal offices of the Secret Service, DHS headquarters, the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and Customs and Border Protection as an attorney-advisor in DHS's honors program. Before joining DHS, he was a judicial law clerk for United States District Judge Eric N. Vitaliano of the Eastern District of New York, a judicial law clerk for Justice Carolyn Berger of the Delaware Supreme Court, a patent agent and technology specialist at WilmerHale, and an engineer at IBM. He holds a J.D. from the Fordham University School of Law and a B.S. in electrical and computer engineering from the Rutgers University School of Engineering.

Topic:

Presenters' Bios

●Cyber and Infrastructure Security

Tim Miller is a Subject Matter Expert on the Use of Force with the Legal Division at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) in Glynco, Georgia. He was previously the Branch Chief for the Legal Division in charge of basic and advanced legal training at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center. Mr. Miller joined the United States Marine Corps in 1984 after taking the Illinois state bar exam. During 20-years of service, he served as a prosecutor, defense counsel, military judge, and staff judge advocate. He was the Staff Judge Advocate for the 15th Marine Expeditionary Unit (MEU). The MEU spearheaded Operation Restore Hope on December 9, 1992 to provide humanitarian assistance to the civilian war-torn and famine stricken country of Somalia, Africa. He deployed again after September 11, 2001. This time he was the Staff Judge Advocate for Joint Task Force 160, which was responsible for detention operations for suspected Al Qaeda and Taliban terrorists at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Base in Cuba. His third deployment was in 2003. Again he was the Staff Judge Advocate; this time for a large logistics command supporting Operation Iraqi Freedom. Mr. Miller retired from the Marine Corps in July 2004 and joined the Legal Division that same month. He was a Senior Instructor for two years and accepted the Branch Chief position in 2006. Tim received a Bachelor of Science Degree and JD from Southern Illinois University at Carbondale, Illinois. He received his LL.M from the Army Judge Advocate General's School in Charlottesville, Virginia.

Topic:

●Use of Force Instruction and Practical Exercise

Paul Foster is a 1982 graduate of Wake Forest University School of Law and is an active member of the North Carolina Bar. Mr. Foster was a commissioned officer in the United States Navy from August 1979 until his retirement in June 1997. As a member of the Judge Advocate General's Corps, he was stationed at Washington DC, Bermuda, Monterey, California, Gulfport, Mississippi, Norfolk, Virginia [USS John F. Kennedy CV-67], and San Diego, California. He is the recipient of the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal (2), and the Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal (2). Mr. Foster began his federal civil service

career with the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service in 1997 as staff attorney with the Office of District Counsel, Los Angeles. In December 2005, Mr. Foster transferred within U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) and was assigned as a Legal Instructor at the ICE Academy (Glynco).

Topic:

● Immigration Issues and DHS

John Miles is the USCIS Deputy Chief Counsel for Field Management. John has more than twenty years of legal experience in immigration law. He began his career as a law clerk with the Executive Office for Immigration Review. He then served as an attorney in the Office of the General Counsel of the Immigration and Naturalization Service. After joining USCIS, he served as Service Center Counsel at the National Benefits Center and then as the Deputy Chief of the Adjudications Law Division. John received his undergraduate degree in Spanish from Hendrix College, and his Juris Doctorate from the University of Arkansas School of Law.

Topic:

● Immigration Issues and DHS

Robert Parker, Deputy Associate Chief Counsel – Response Directorate, serves as FEMA’s Deputy Associate Chief Counsel for Response, tasked with providing legal counsel to the FEMA Assistant Administrator for Response and the Headquarters Response Senior Staff including response logistics operations. The team also provides counsel to the National Response Coordination Center (NRCC), and the National Watch Center (NWC).

Parker is a native of Chicago, Illinois, a graduate of Georgetown University, (BSBA) and Chicago-Kent College of Law, (JD). He was commissioned as a Judge Advocate in the U.S. Navy and served both on active duty and in the Naval Reserve. He retired as a Captain in 2009.

Prior to joining FEMA in 2004, Parker was in private practice in Chicago, Illinois. In 1999 he was called to active duty with the U.S. Navy and served on active duty through the attacks of 9/11. In 2004 he was released from active military service and joined FEMA as a Field Attorney with follow-on assignments as counsel to Federal Coordinating Officers at Joint Field Offices in Indianapolis, Indiana, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, Asheville, North Carolina, Baton Rouge/New Orleans, Louisiana and Albany, New York. Parker serves as an instructor at the Emergency Management Institute's (EMI) Introduction to OCC Field Operations and Advanced Attorney Training Courses and is a member of the Department of Homeland Security's (DHS) Office of General Counsel Crisis Cell.

Topic:

● DHS Responses to Emergencies and Disasters

Lesley Stein is the Deputy Associate General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs in the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS). The Office of the General Counsel's Regulatory Affairs Law Division provides leadership and legal support for regulatory and administrative law matters across DHS. Ms. Stein previously served as an Attorney Advisor in the Regulatory Affairs Law Division. Prior to joining DHS, Ms. Stein served as an Attorney Advisor in the Regulations and Legislation Division of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD)'s Office of the General Counsel. Ms. Stein began her legal career as an Honors Attorney at HUD. Ms. Stein graduated from Case Western Reserve University School of Law in Cleveland, Ohio, with a specialization in Public Law and Regulatory Institutions. She obtained her Bachelor of Science in Journalism, *summa cum laude*, from Ohio University in Athens, Ohio. Prior to law school, Ms. Stein was the Marketing Director for the Pro Football Hall of Fame Enshrinement Festival in Canton, Ohio.

Topic:

● Regulations and Legislative Affairs

Chris Richardson is the Assistant General Counsel for Legislative Affairs in the Office of the General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Mr. Richardson was named to that position in April 2010, after previously serving as the Acting Assistant General for Legislative Affairs since March 2009. He advises the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, the General Counsel, and other Department leadership on legal issues related to legislation and Congressional relations. Mr. Richardson joined DHS as an attorney-advisor in the Regulatory and Legislative Affairs Division in August 2006. In that role, he primarily focused on legislative issues regarding emergency management, disaster response and intelligence law. He worked extensively on the Post Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 and the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007. Mr. Richardson began his career as a legal honors intern at the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in 2001, and later was an attorney-advisor in HUD's Office of Legislation and Regulations. Mr. Richardson graduated from the College of New Jersey (1998) with a B.A. in political science. He received his J.D. from the Wake Forest University School of Law (2001), where he was an Executive Editor of the Wake Forest Law Review.

Topic:

● Regulations and Legislative Affairs

David H. Brunjes Mr. Brunjes graduated from The Citadel, the Military College of South Carolina, in 1973. He then joined the United States Army and has served as an Infantry Officer in the 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, North Carolina. In 1977 he left active duty to attend Washburn University School of Law, receiving his Juris Doctor Degree in 1980. After completing law school Mr. Brunjes served on active duty in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps as a Prosecutor, Labor Counselor, Administrative Law Officer, and Command Judge Advocate. Mr. Brunjes left active duty in 1986 to serve as the Procurement Officer, Labor Counselor, and Administrative Law Officer at Fort Jackson, South Carolina. In 1989, Mr. Brunjes joined the Office of Chief Counsel at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Centers (FLETC) and is currently

serving as the FLETC Chief Counsel. He continued to serve in the U.S. Army Reserve, participating in Operation Desert Storm as the Chief of Criminal Law for U.S. Army Central Command and retiring with the rank of Colonel in May 2003. Mr. Brunjes and his wife Barbara reside in Brunswick, Georgia with one of their four children. He is licensed to practice law in Kansas.

Topic:

●Intellectual Property

Michael J. Davidson currently serves as the Assistant General Counsel for Appropriation and Fiscal Law, DHS Office of General Counsel. Prior to working at DHS OGC, Mike was the Chief and Deputy Chief for the Commercial and Administrative Law Division at U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), Office of the Principal Legal Advisor. Mike previously served as a supervisory and litigation attorney with the Department of the Treasury and as an Army Judge Advocate, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Mike earned his B.S. from the U.S. Military Academy, his J.D. from the College of William & Mary, a LL.M. in Military Law from the Army's Judge Advocate General's School, a second LL.M. in Government Procurement Law from George Washington University (GWU), and a Doctor of Juridical Science (S.J.D) in Government Procurement Law from GWU. He is the author of two books and 50 legal articles.

Topic:

●Fiscal and Procurement Law

Christine Conyers is an Attorney-Advisor and Deputy Ethics Official in the DHS Office of the General Counsel Ethics Division in Washington, D.C. She provides ethics guidance to various Headquarters (HQ) clients and three DHS HQ FACA committees. Prior to DHS, Christine served as a desk officer at the U.S. Office of Government Ethics (OGE), providing ethics advice to over 20 Executive Branch agencies. She worked with incoming Presidential nominees, the White House and Executive Branch agencies on potential ethics conflicts on nominee financial disclosure reports; was a

member of OGE audit teams inspecting agency ethics programs; helped develop government-wide program metrics to test the health of the ethics programs in agencies, and, as a member of the OGE legislative team, monitored and commented on legislative proposals implicating Executive Branch ethics programs. Christine began her government career as an Administrative Fellow at the National Institutes of Health (NIH), Human Genome Research Institute. During that two year Fellowship, Christine served primarily as an Ethics Specialist, but also served details in the technology transfer office, monitoring for copyright infringement of NIH patents and negotiating licensing agreements for use of NIH technologies, and in the NIH acquisitions office, primarily overseeing the certification program for acquisition professionals. Christine earned her B.A. in Archaeology from Hood College in Frederick, MD, her J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law, and is a member of the Maryland State Bar. She lives in Middletown, MD, and is the proud mother of two daughters who, unfortunately, did not inherit her native Scottish lilt!

Topic:

●Ethics

Grace Cheng is a 1999 graduate of the University of Southern California Law School. After eight years of private practice, Grace joined the Office of Principal Legal Advisor, U.S. Immigration Customs and Enforcement, as an associate legal advisor in January 2008. She served in a number of different capacities before becoming the Chief of the Government Information Law Division in 2012. Grace joined the DHS Office of General Counsel as FOIA and Privacy counsel in August 2013, where she is responsible for the Department's FOIA litigation portfolio, as well as advising the DHS Privacy office on various legal issues. When not at work, Grace is an avid runner, and keeps busy with her husband, three kids, and a houseful of pets.

Topic:

●FOIA & Privacy