



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

CRCL Releases 2011 Annual Report and 2012 First Quarter Report to Congress

CRCL is pleased to announce the submission of its [Fiscal Year 2011 Annual and Fourth Quarter Report to Congress](#). In accordance with 6 U.S.C. § 345 and 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1, the Report highlights the activities and accomplishments of the office during FY 2011. Some of CRCL's most significant initiatives and achievements over the reporting period include:

- *Eliminating the Department's backlog of Equal Employment Opportunity cases awaiting adjudication;*
- *Working with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to improve the Secure Communities program;*
- *Partnering with the DHS Privacy Office and the Office of General Counsel to conduct quarterly reviews of U.S. Customs and Border Protection's (CBP) and the Transportation Security Administration's (TSA) threat-based intelligence scenarios run by the Automated Targeting System;*
- *Participating in the first Universal Periodic Review to produce an assessment of the human rights record of each of the members of the United Nations Human Rights Council;*
- *Leading the Department-wide effort to develop a plan for providing meaningful access to homeland security programs and activities to people with limited English proficiency;*
- *Coordinating with TSA to develop new airport guidelines that make clear there is no security obstacle to providing service animal relief areas within secure areas of airports;*
- *Forming a DHS working group to ensure that lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender persons are treated equally in DHS activities;*
- *Working with TSA screening programs to ensure privacy and civil liberties are protected for travelers in the United States;*
- *Developing and conducting training for officials operating in fusion centers and for law enforcement working to counter violent extremism, covering key cultural and religious factors as well as guidance on effective community policing strategies without the use of ethnic profiling; and*
- *Participating in the Department-wide working group on unaccompanied alien children.*

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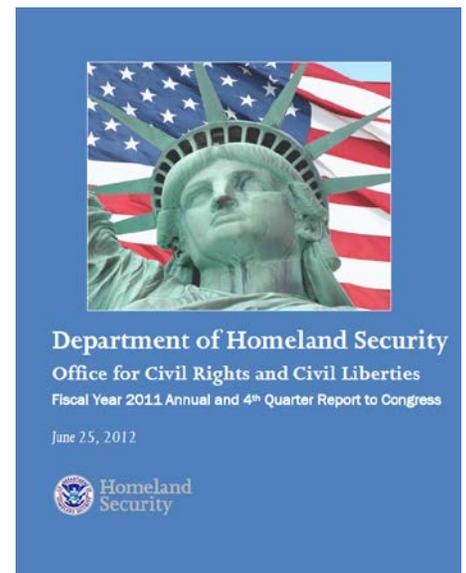
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CRCL also submitted its [FY 2012 First Quarter Report to Congress](#) as required by section 803 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007, 42 U.S.C. § 2000ee-1(f). The Report provides statistical data analysis of civil rights and civil liberties investigations during the first quarter of FY 2012, and also includes information regarding impact assessments.



CRCL Hosts Universal Periodic Review Civil Society Consultation

CRCL continues to spearhead DHS efforts to implement the relevant recommendations received by the U.S. Government in the context of its 2010-2011 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) before the UN Human Rights Council. CRCL, together with the DHS Office of Policy, leads an interagency working group that is charged with implementing the immigration-related UPR recommendations and also represents DHS on several other similar, issue-specific working groups.

Recently, CRCL was pleased to host a civil society consultation on the immigration-related UPR recommendations. Representatives from the Department of Justice, the U.S. State Department, the Department of Health and Human Services, and the Department of Housing and Urban Development spoke for their agencies. CRCL, the Office of Policy, ICE, CBP, and U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services represented DHS.

Participating civil society organizations – including the ACLU, Human Rights Watch, UNHCR, Rights Working Group, and Human Rights First, among others – underscored their concerns about immigration detention (including safe repatriation and access to counsel for vulnerable populations), ICE’s Prosecutorial Discretion initiative, the Secure Communities and 287(g) programs and racial profiling, use of force at the Southwest border, the intersection of prosecutorial discretion and worksite enforcement, interdiction policy and practice, and the interaction between the Department’s immigration enforcement and disaster response efforts.

Over the past few months, CRCL and Policy staff have attended a number of civil society consultations hosted by our interagency colleagues who are working to implement the UPR recommendations. CRCL and Policy are working diligently to collect information on DHS programs and policies that are responsive to the UPR recommendations, and to identify areas in which we can strengthen our implementation of the recommendations. Contact CRCL with questions and suggestions about this implementation process via email at HumanRightsOfficer@hq.dhs.gov.

CRCL Receives 2012 ICE Director’s DHS Partner Award

CRCL and ICE Enforcement & Removal Operations (ERO) recently received the coveted ICE Director’s DHS Partner Award. The award is given annually to recognize DHS Components and offices for superior dedication to teamwork and in the execution of ICE’s mission.

Throughout 2011, CRCL and ICE ERO collaborated in creating the first two [Secure Communities](#) educational and awareness videos in a series of eight, and revamped the [Secure Communities website](#) to better highlight and emphasize DHS and CRCL/ICE-related activities. CRCL and ERO also worked diligently to launch a proactive quarterly review of law enforcement statistics related to Secure Communities interoperability to identify and, if necessary, respond to civil rights problems, including improper policing activities such as racial or ethnic profiling on the part of state or local law enforcement agencies in which Secure Communities interoperability has been activated.



2012 ICE Director’s DHS Partner Award recipients.

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The ICE ERO Law Enforcement Systems & Analysis (LESA) division (formerly Secure Communities) worked closely with CRCL and the ICE Office of State, Local and Tribal Coordination to establish a framework for the educational video series and the delivery methodology to state and local law enforcement. Teamwork, dedication, and tenacity led to the production of the first video in just eight weeks, and those within DHS as well as non-governmental organizations applauded the efforts. Within three weeks of initiation, the team overhauled the Secure Communities website to increase transparency and overall awareness and to intuitively guide visitors to the information they desired.

The combination of these collective efforts has led to a more productive working relationship between ICE and CRCL and additional awareness and protections of individual civil rights and civil liberties throughout all levels of law enforcement.

Americans with Disabilities Act

In July, we commemorate the signing of the [Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990](#) (ADA), which was signed into law by President George H.W. Bush on July 26, 1990. The ADA was enacted to create civil rights law protections that prohibit the discrimination of individuals with disabilities.

Protecting the civil rights and civil liberties of individuals with disabilities is one of several ways that CRCL supports the Department's many missions. CRCL Acting Officer Tamara Kessler participated in the Department of Justice's ADA anniversary commemoration ceremony.

Recently, President Obama also [reaffirmed his commitment to ensuring the rights of individuals with disabilities in recognizing the anniversary of *Olmsted v. LC*](#), a case in which the Supreme Court ruled that the unjustified institutional isolation of individuals with disabilities is a form of unlawful discrimination under the ADA.



CRCL on the Road, July

July 5-7 – Washington, DC

CRCL presented at the Association of Physicians of Pakistani Descent of North America's National Convention.

July 8 – Las Vegas, Nevada

CRCL presented at the National Council of La Raza National Convention.

July 12 – Minneapolis, Minnesota

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

July 18 – Seattle, Washington

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

July 18 – New York, New York

CRCL coordinated several meetings with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations in preparation for the first New York City roundtable.

July 8 – Washington, DC

CRCL presented at the U.S. PAK Foundations' Third Annual Youth Leadership Conference.

July 12 – Denver, Colorado

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

July 18 – Los Angeles, California

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

July 18 – Seattle, Washington

CRCL hosted a community engagement cultural awareness training session with local law enforcement.

July 26 – Tampa, Florida

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

July 26 – Boston, Massachusetts

CRCL representative coordinated the BRIDGES community engagement roundtable meeting with the U.S. Attorney's Office.

July 27 – San Francisco, California

CRCL presented at the White House Hispanic Summit.

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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This is the eighth issue in volume 2 of this newsletter; please visit our [website](#) for information from prior newsletters.