



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



### Take our CRCL Newsletter Survey

Your opinion matters! As a valued stakeholder CRCL would like your feedback on our monthly newsletter. Your responses will help us to improve your reading experience.

Please [click here](#) to take the survey. It only takes a few minutes to complete. Please note that your responses are anonymous, and no personally identifiable information will be requested or collected for this survey.

The survey closes on May 4, 2018, so don't delay! **Thank you!**

### Parting Message from Deputy Secretary Elaine Duke

On April 15, 2018, Deputy Secretary Elaine Duke left the Department to return to retirement. In her parting message to employees, Ms. Duke reiterated the commitment of the women and men of DHS to safeguarding the American people, our homeland, and our values. She stated, "There is no doubt that across this Department, in all walks and ways, ours is a workforce of leaders at all levels, taking responsibility, demonstrating innovation, and keeping our nation safe, secure and resilient."

Elaine Duke was the deputy secretary of DHS from April 10, 2017 to April 15, 2018. She also served as the acting secretary of DHS from July 31, 2017, to December 6, 2017.

An accomplished leader and a civil servant for most of her career, Elaine Duke has served in the federal government for nearly three decades, including as the Department's Senate-confirmed under secretary for management, a position she held from 2008-2010.

### CRCL and FEMA Conduct Listening Sessions



Continuing a series of outreach and engagement listening sessions focused on improving disaster planning and preparedness for individuals with disabilities, leadership from CRCL, and FEMA's Offices of Disability Integration and Coordination, and Equal Rights, recently traveled to Ventura and Riverside, California to meet with emergency managers and representatives from disability non-governmental organizations. The goal of the listening sessions is to better understand how DHS and impacted communities, including state and local governments, can prepare for and respond effectively to disasters in a whole community approach to emergency management.

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During the listening sessions, participants raised a number of issues related to expanding access to emergency preparedness and response for all, including individuals with disabilities. Key topics discussed included: communication access for people with disabilities, evacuation, sheltering, access to FEMA resources, and services and support for recovery.

Throughout 2018 CRCL and FEMA will continue to lead listening sessions across the country on improving disaster planning for the whole community.

### **CRCL Leads DHS Women’s History Month Program**

Last month, CRCL hosted the DHS-wide Women’s History Month event: *Honoring Women Who Protect the Homeland*, which included keynote remarks from then-Deputy Secretary Elaine Duke, and a panel discussion featuring women leaders from U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), and U.S. Secret Service (USSS).

During her remarks Ms. Duke spoke about the value of female leadership at every level in the DHS workforce. “We are proud to be a federal agency that is led by strong women,” she said. “The women of DHS play a vital role in shaping public policies, securing and managing our borders, preventing and obstructing terrorist and public safety threats, and protecting our nation’s cyber networks and critical infrastructure. Every day, the women of DHS are inspiring future leaders in the homeland security enterprise.”



*CRCL Deputy Officer Veronica Venture announces panelists from left to right: Barbara Q. Velarde, USCIS; Kimberly Hutchinson, TSA; Carolyn McMillon, USSS; and Wen-Ting Cheng, ICE*

CRCL Deputy Officer Veronica Venture then introduced the distinguished panelists representing several DHS components, who shared stories about their career paths, challenges, and successes as leaders advancing in various homeland security-related fields. Panelists offered their personal perspectives on achieving balance between work and family and overcoming adversity in the workplace.

Each March we celebrate Women’s History Month, a time to reflect on the outstanding women who have shaped our lives and thank those who continue to serve across America.

### **CRCL Conducts Academic Engagement Meetings**



A CRCL representative recently traveled to several colleges and universities in Florida, California, and New Jersey to meet with students as part of CRCL’s campus engagement program. CRCL regularly meets with college students to listen to their perspectives and feedback on DHS policies and activities. During the meetings, CRCL provided an overview of its role and responsibilities, and described its community outreach and engagement program. The meetings were open to questions and answers and participants raised concerns involving a variety of homeland security-related issues including: immigration enforcement operations, the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) program, and TSA

screening of travelers with religious and cultural items, among other topics.

## **CRCL Leads Spring Break Student Outreach Event**

Last month, CRCL and the DHS Office of the Chief Human Capital Officer co-sponsored an event for college students: *Spring Break, Make Your Impact While DHS Secures the Homeland*. CRCL Officer Cameron Quinn welcomed students to the day-long event aimed to provide an overview of DHS and homeland security careers, information about the federal application and hiring process, and information on federal internships and employment opportunities. During the first session, a panel of DHS employees in law enforcement, security, and information technology shared stories of their career development and gave a glimpse into their day-to-day work to protect the homeland. The second session featured a panel discussion on careers in the fields of Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM), and Management and Administrative Professionals (MAP). Both sessions also featured workshops in federal resume writing, mock interviews, and the Office of Personnel Management's Pathways Program which is designed to provide students enrolled in a wide variety of educational institutions with compensated opportunities to work in agencies, and consider federal careers while still in school. Students who successfully complete the program may be eligible for conversion to a permanent job in the civil service.

## **CRCL Participates in City-to-City Exchange Programs**

In an ongoing partnership with the U.S. Department of State, CRCL recently led a delegation of Canadian law enforcement officials, civil society members, and local government representatives in a community city-to-city exchange tour to Washington, D.C.; Las Vegas, Nevada; and San Bernardino and Los Angeles, California.

The visit began in Washington, D.C. where the delegation received briefings from DHS and U.S. Department of State representatives. From there, the group traveled to Las Vegas where they met with diverse community and faith-based stakeholders and local law enforcement officials in a series of meetings to share information about community engagement. In San Bernardino and Los Angeles, the delegation met with law enforcement, academia, advocacy groups, and local government officials to discuss best practices in civil rights and community engagement at the national and local levels.

Since 2011, CRCL has coordinated city-to-city exchange tours with delegations from Belgium, Germany, Sweden, France, and Canada.



## **CRCL Hosts Roundtable and Engagement Meetings in Houston**

This month, CRCL convened its quarterly roundtable in Houston with a cross-section of more than 30 diverse community leaders, law enforcement, and local, state, and federal government officials. CRCL Deputy Officer Veronica Venture gave introductions and an overview of CRCL's work.

Rayford Irvin, Director of the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's (EEOC) Houston District Office, spoke on local EEOC roles and responsibilities and the resources they provide. Supervisory Special Agent Alfred Tribble of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, Houston presented on hate incidents and symbols, current trends and statistics, and how community members can stay alert for potential hate activity.

Other discussion topics included concerns with new privately owned detention centers being built in the area, the process for CBP searches of electronic devices, and religious questioning.



Also, while in Houston, Deputy Officer Venture met with a group of stakeholders representing the healthcare industry, local chambers of commerce, interfaith leadership, academia, and non-profit organizations. Attendees discussed the role of DHS in issues facing their transitioning community, including: immigration enforcement procedures, new detention facilities and conditions in these facilities, and DACA, among others.

## **DHS Launches New Podcast: myDHS**

[myDHS](#) shines a light on DHS' most valuable resource—its employees! In this series, you'll hear from DHS employees on what makes them proud, the challenges they face day-to-day, and how their work safeguards the American people, our homeland, and our values. Listen to Daniel Sutherland, DHS associate general counsel, share his story as the first CRCL Officer for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties: [“Remarkable Mission...Remarkable People.”](#)

## **DHS News and Updates**

*April 19, 2018* – [Operation No Safe Haven 2018, ICE arrests 33 with history of human rights violation across the U.S. during Operation No Safe Haven IV](#)

*April 10, 2018* – [Chad has Met Baseline Security Requirements, Travel Restrictions to be Removed](#)

*April 6, 2018* – [Joint Statement by Secretary of Homeland Security Kirstjen Nielsen and Secretary of Defense James Mattis](#)

*April 5, 2018* – [Statement from the Press Secretary on March Border Numbers](#)

*April 4, 2018* – [To Secure the Border and Make America Safe Again, We Need to Deploy the National Guard](#)

## **CRCL on the Road, April**

### ***April 2-12 – Las Vegas, Nevada and San Bernardino, California***

CRCL participated in the U.S. State Department-sponsored City-to-City exchange with a Canadian delegation.

### ***April 9 – San Diego, California***

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

### ***April 9-13, Southern California***

CRCL and FEMA partners conducted a disaster preparedness listening sessions with local disability stakeholders on lessons learned following the 2017 hurricane season.

### ***April 16-17 – Princeton and Madison, New Jersey***

CRCL convened academic engagement meetings at two New Jersey universities.

### ***April 17 – Houston, Texas***

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

## **CRCL on the Road Ahead, May**

***Puerto Rico and U.S. Virgin Islands:*** Disaster preparedness listening session with local emergency management and disability stakeholders.

***Minneapolis, Minnesota:*** Quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations

### ***April 19 – Philadelphia, Pennsylvania***

CRCL convened an academic engagement meeting at a local college.

### ***April 23, Orlando, Estero, Miami, and Ft. Lauderdale, Florida***

CRCL and FEMA partners conducted a disaster preparedness listening session with local disability stakeholders on lessons learned following the 2017 hurricane season.

### ***April 24 – Denver, Colorado***

CRCL representatives conducted civil rights and civil liberties trainings for local law enforcement partners.

### ***April 30 – Cincinnati, Ohio***

CRCL conducted a community engagement immigration meeting with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

### ***April 30 – Covington, Kentucky***

CRCL conducted a community engagement immigration meeting with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

***Detroit, Michigan:*** Quarterly community engagement roundtable with diverse ethnic and community-based organizations.

For more information on engagement events, email: [communityengagement@hq.dhs.gov](mailto:communityengagement@hq.dhs.gov).

## **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 file complaints; ongoing and upcoming projects; opportunities to offer comments and feedback; etc. We distribute our newsletters via our stakeholder email list and make them available to community groups for redistribution. Issues of the newsletter can be accessed online at: [www.dhs.gov/crcl-newsletter](http://www.dhs.gov/crcl-newsletter).

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](mailto:crcloutreach@dhs.gov). For more information, including how to make a civil rights or civil liberties complaint about DHS activities, visit: [www.dhs.gov/crcl](http://www.dhs.gov/crcl).

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