OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL
HONORS ATTORNEY PROGRAM
AND
SUMMER LAW INTERN PROGRAM

for 2011
Eligibility Requirements

• Open only to **U.S. citizens**
  - Does *not* include lawful permanent residents

• Must obtain and hold a security clearance

• Honors Attorney Program:
  - 3Ls
  - Those enrolled in a graduate law program or participating in a judicial clerkship (if began within 9 months of graduating from law school)

• Summer Law Intern Program:
  - 1Ls, 2Ls
  - Certain 3Ls (if enrolled in 4-year night program or a combined JD and other graduate program, *e.g.*, JD/MBA, JD/MPH)
Nicholas D. Gray

Assistant General Counsel for Litigation

• B.S., Cornell University (‘01)
• J.D., Stanford Law School (‘04)
• Private Practice, Boston (‘04-‘07)
  • Commercial Litigation—Financial securities, appellate, land use
• Joined DHS / OGC in February 2007
  • Civil Litigation, Constitutional Law, Statutory Interpretation
Our Client

U.S. Department of Homeland Security

One Team, One Mission: Securing the Homeland
U.S. Department of Homeland Security

www.dhs.gov

- 15th and Newest Cabinet Department

- Created by Consolidating Over 30 Programs and Agencies from Across the Federal Government

- Third Largest Cabinet Department
  - Over 220,000 Employees Worldwide

- Operational Focus
  - Diverse Responsibilities and Subject Matters

- Over 1,800 Attorneys
DHS Components

• Transportation Security Administration (TSA)
• U.S. Coast Guard (USCG)
• U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP)
• U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE)
• Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA)
• U.S. Secret Service (USSS)
• U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services (USCIS)
• Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC)
Transportation Security Administration

- Commonly known for airport security (e.g., screeners, Federal Air Marshals)
- Also play a vital role in rail, port, bus, and trucking security
U.S. Coast Guard

- Search and Rescue Missions
- Maritime Policing / Patrol Coastal Waters
- Maritime Regulation
U.S. Customs and Border Protection

- Police the movement of people and goods across the country’s international boundaries
  - Air, land, and marine borders
- Enforce and collect customs fees, duties, and tariffs
U.S. Immigration & Customs Enforcement

- Investigate criminal violations of immigration and customs laws
  - *e.g.*, counterfeit goods; smuggling (weapons, drugs, currency)
- Arrest, detain, and remove aliens in the United States without legal status
Federal Emergency Management Agency

• Primary Federal response agency for natural and other disasters
  • Coordinate with state and local emergency response organizations
• Facilitate preparedness through grants, training, exercises, and other activities
• Insurance and mitigation programs (e.g., National Flood Insurance Program)
U.S. Secret Service

- Protect national leaders, visiting heads of state / government, designated sites, and National Special Security Events
- Protect the nation’s financial infrastructure
  - Counterfeit currency, financial payment systems
U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Services

- Adjudicate applications for immigration benefits
  - Employment and family-based immigration petitions
  - Applications for lawful permanent residence and U.S. citizenship
- Administration of humanitarian programs
  - Asylum and refugee programs
  - Temporary protected status
Federal Law Enforcement Training Center

- Train Federal officers and agents from more than eighty different Federal agencies
- Conduct more than 400 specialized training programs
- Provide training for state, local, tribal and international officers.
(Selected) DHS HQ Offices

- National Protections & Programs Directorate
  - Cyber Security
  - Chemical Facility Security
- Office of Health Affairs
- Office of Intelligence and Analysis
- Science & Technology Directorate
- “Business of Government” Offices
  - *e.g.*, Management, Public Affairs, Legislative Affairs
Office of the General Counsel
Office of the General Counsel

• Component Counsel Offices

• DHS / HQ Legal Divisions
  • Immigration
  • Regulatory Affairs
  • Operations & Enforcement
  • Legal Counsel
  • General Law
  • Technology Programs
  • National Protection & Programs
  • Intelligence
Honors Program

• Cornerstone of entry-level attorney hiring for DHS

• Hired for a two-year rotational assignment
  • 3 eight-month rotations

• Work at multiple legal offices within the Office of the General Counsel (all in DC metro area)

• Address some of the most critical and challenging issues facing our nation today

• Honors Program attorneys with satisfactory performance ratings will ordinarily be offered full-time positions at the end of the two-year rotation, subject to DHS needs and funding
Honors Program
Salaries
(2010 Rates for Washington, D.C.)

• Normal Starting Salary at GS-11/01 ($62,467)

• One year of post-law school judicial clerkship experience or
  Advanced law degrees with one year of post-law school full-time graduate law study (LLM or equivalent)
  • Start at GS-12/01 level ($74,872)

• Two or three years of judicial clerkship experience or
  Combination of two or three years of post-law school judicial clerkships and graduate law degree
  • May be considered for GS-13/01 ($89,033) at DHS discretion
Attorney promotions generally are performance-based, and are subject to time-in-grade requirements. Meeting the minimum time-in-grade requirement does not automatically entitle an attorney to a promotion.
Recent Work Assignments for Honors Attorneys

- **Oil Spill Response Efforts**: assisted in developing proposals for the long-term management of the recovery in the Gulf

- **Earthquake in Haiti**: assisted DHS’ Haitian temporary protected status taskforce; determined admission eligibility categories for Haitian orphans

- **Airport Security**: advised senior TSA officials on matters associated with the issuance and revocation of FAA and airport credentials

- **Immigration Issues**:
  - served as a member of DHS legal team in the Arizona SB 1070 litigation
  - represented DHS in an immigration case before the Immigration Court
  - analyzed DHS detention authority for aliens and participated in a working group from DHS on detention matters
Recent Work Assignments for Honors Attorneys

• **Security at Foreign Ports**: wrote and edited legislative proposals on procedures for assessing security at foreign ports

• **Counterterrorism Authority**: provided an overview of the responsibilities of various federal agencies in the area of counterterrorism

• **Southern Border Fence**: assisted in representing DHS on an inter-agency litigation task force involved with condemnation cases along the southwest border of the U.S., including working with U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, CBP, DOJ and private land owners
Summer Law Intern Program

• Hired to work in the Office of the General Counsel (HQ) in Washington, D.C.

• Will have the opportunity to work with two or more of the different legal divisions in our office

• Will gain valuable legal experience and substantial individual responsibility
Summer Law Intern Program
Salaries
(2010 Rates for Washington, D.C.)

- GS-9/01: $51,630 (2Ls)
- GS-7/01: $42,209 (1Ls)
- Pro-rated for intern period
Honors Attorney Program
Summer Law Intern Program

Both programs include tours of DHS facilities and other Washington, D.C. institutions, including:

- U.S. Secret Service Training Facility
- Dulles Airport CBP Port-of-Entry
- Dulles Airport TSA Security Stations
- DHS Forensic Document Laboratory
- U.S. Coast Guard Air Station at Reagan National Airport
- U.S. Supreme Court
- Department of State
- U.S. Capitol
Application Information

• Application period for both programs is from **August 16, 2010** to **October 15, 2010**

• Send Cover Letter, Resume, References, and Unofficial Transcript to: **OGCStaffing@dhs.gov**
For More Information

www.dhs.gov/ogc
For More Information

Craig Raynsford

Craig.Raynsford1@dhs.gov
Why Government Work?

• More responsibility sooner
• Cutting-edge legal issues
• Opportunity to directly impact your government, your country, and your world
• Work on what interests you
Why Government Work?

• Work / life balance
• Good salaries and benefits
• Stability
• Career advancement
Why DHS?

- Vital mission
- Flat organization
- Fast-paced environment
- High-profile legal issues
Some Examples

- Gulf Oil Spill
- Christmas Day Bombing Attempt
- Arizona SB 1070
- Haiti Earthquake
- Mexican Drug War
What are Some Typical Duties?

- Draft memos to the Solicitor General seeking further review
- Review and edit briefs prepared by Department of Justice
- Discuss litigation strategy with AUSAs / DOJ trial lawyers
- Participate in moot courts for upcoming arguments
- Evaluate litigation risks with proposed agency action
- Draft talking points for Office of Public Affairs
- Brief the General Counsel and senior officials about litigation
- Prepare declarations for Department officials
Some Case Examples

• *Chamber of Commerce of the USA, et al. v. Whiting, et al.*, Case No. 09-115 (US)


Eligibility Requirements
(Recap)

• Open **only** to **U.S. citizens**
  • Does *not* include lawful permanent residents

• Must obtain and hold a security clearance

• Honors Attorney Program:
  • 3Ls
  • Those enrolled in a graduate law program or participating in a judicial clerkship (if began within 9 months of graduating of law school)

• Summer Law Intern Program:
  • 1Ls, 2Ls
  • Certain 3Ls (if enrolled in 4-year night program or a combined JD and other graduate program, *e.g.*, JD/MBA, JD/MPH)
Application Information (Recap)

- Application period for both programs closes on **October 15, 2010**
- Send Cover Letter, Resume, References, and Unofficial Transcript to: **OGCStaffing@dhs.gov**
- Send Questions to: **Craig.Raynsford1@dhs.gov**
Thank you