



# Homeland Security

## Michael D. Russell

Mr. Russell joined the Management Directorate in May of 2011 in the role of Senior Counselor to the Under Secretary for Management and Suspension and Debarment Official for the Department of Homeland Security.

Prior to joining the Management Directorate, Mr. Russell served as the career Deputy Associate General Counsel for General Law. In this capacity, Mr. Russell served as the Acting Associate General Counsel for General Law for extended periods of time, including during the only change in Administrations.

Mr. Russell joined the General Law Division in August 2003 as an Attorney Advisor and served officially or unofficially as the Deputy Associate General Counsel for General Law for most of his tenure in the Office of the General Counsel. As the Deputy Associate General Counsel for the General Law Division he exercised operational control over the entire panoply of GLD's portfolio, including administration of the department, appropriations, personnel, acquisitions, financial assistance, and a vast array of subject matters that simply do not fit nicely in other OGC divisions.

Mr. Russell was OGC's first Senior Level employee, and he was also DHS' first Appropriations Counsel. Mr. Russell began his career in the Air Force JAG Corps, worked 12 years at Coast Guard Headquarters providing claims and litigation support for tort issues, and military and civilian personnel litigation, including *Bivens* actions, as well as actions challenging the Coast Guard's compliance with the Administrative Procedure Act. Mr. Russell also served as both the Deputy and the Chief of the Coast Guard's Office of General Law, where he provided counsel on a wide range of issues, including: military and civilian personnel policy; fiscal law, the administration of the Coast Guard; as well as myriad other subject matter areas, including those that simply did not fit neatly within the portfolio of other offices

Immediately prior to joining DHS, Mr. Russell served as the Deputy General Counsel of the Department of Defense Education Activity. Mr. Russell retired from the Air Force JAG Corps in the rank of Lieutenant Colonel while serving at the HQ of the Air Force Office of Special Investigations. Mr. Russell received his Juris Doctor from the University Of Alabama School Of Law, his Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the United States Naval War College, and his Bachelor of Arts from Birmingham-Southern College.