

**OFFICE OF THE CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES
OMBUDSMAN
SEVENTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE**

Government and Stakeholders Working Together to Improve Immigration Services

*December 7, 2017
National Archives, Washington, D.C.*

9:00 – 9:30 a.m. **Registration**
Lobby of William McGowan Theater

All morning events will be held in the William McGowan Theater

9:30 – 9:35 a.m. **Master of Ceremonies Stacy Shore**
Acting Deputy Director, Office of the CIS Ombudsman

9:35 – 10:00 a.m. **Welcome by Julie Kirchner**
CIS Ombudsman

10:00 – 10:30 a.m. **Remarks from Elaine C. Duke**
Acting Secretary of Homeland Security

10:35 – 11:05 a.m. **Remarks from L. Francis Cissna**
USCIS Director

11:05 – 11:15 a.m. Break

11:20 – 11:50 a.m. **Remarks from James McHenry**
Acting Director of Executive Office for Immigration Review

11:50 – 1:30 p.m. Lunch (on your own)

1:30 – 3:00 p.m. **Simultaneous Roundtables – Session I**

Citizenship and Naturalization Issues

Location: Jefferson Conference Room

Moderator: Margaret (Peggy) Gleason

Speakers: Laura Patching, USCIS Office of Citizenship; Michael Valverde, USCIS Field Operations Directorate; Randolph (Randy) McGrorty, Catholic Legal Services, Archdiocese of Miami; Fatimah Mateen, Office of the CIS Ombudsman

Speakers from USCIS Office of Citizenship, Field Operations Directorate, and practitioners with expertise in citizenship as well as complex naturalization issues will discuss recent changes in USCIS processing.

Employment Immigration – H-1B Non-Immigrant Visa Program

Location: William McGowan Theater

Moderator: Carrie Anderson

Speakers: Kevin Cummings, USCIS Office of Policy and Strategy; Ronil Hira, Howard University; Mark Eckert, Uber Technologies, Inc.

Panelists will focus their analysis on recent and anticipated changes in the H-1B non-immigrant visa program, as well as describe other recent issues in employment-based immigration.

Background Checks and USCIS Processing Issues

Location: Washington Conference Room

Moderator: Elissa McGovern

Speakers: David Eisenreich, FBI National Name Check Program; Lee Bowes, USCIS Immigration Records and Identity Services Directorate (IRIS); Anna Priddy, Office of the CIS Ombudsman

Panelists from the FBI National Name Check Program and USCIS Immigration Records and Identity Services Directorate will discuss USCIS background checks and their impact on processing of petitions and applications.

3:00 – 3:15 p.m. Break

3:15 – 4:30 p.m. **Simultaneous Roundtables – Session II**

E-Verify

Location: Jefferson Conference Room

Moderator: Carlos Lobo

Speakers: Tammy M. Meckley, USCIS Immigration Records and Identity Services Directorate (IRIS); Elizabeth Milito, National Federation of Independent Business (NFIB) Small Business Legal Center; Julie Myers Wood, Guidepost Solutions; Fred Troncone, Office of the CIS Ombudsman

The Administration's Fiscal Year 2018 Budget calls for mandating nationwide usage of the E-Verify system to reduce illegal employment. This panel will review the current state of E-Verify, issues arising for employers using the program, and the capacity for E-Verify to expand upon a new statutory or administrative mandate.

Transformation

Location: Washington Conference Room

Moderator: Stephanie Fast

Speakers: David Blair, USCIS Office of Information Technology; Courtney Winship, USCIS Customer Service & Public Engagement Directorate, Innovation & Technology Division; Dan Berger, Curran & Berger

Panelists with expertise in the implementation of electronic processing via ELIS (Electronic Legal Immigration Systems) will describe the current status of the Transformation project.