Civil Liberties Protection Officer

Alexander W. Joel

Alexander W. Joel is the Civil Liberties Protection Officer for the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. In that capacity, he leads the ODNI's Civil Liberties and Privacy Office, and reports directly to the Director of National Intelligence.

His responsibilities include ensuring that the protection of privacy and civil liberties is appropriately incorporated in Intelligence Community policies and procedures, overseeing compliance by the ODNI with privacy and civil liberties laws, reviewing complaints of possible abuses of privacy and civil liberties in programs and operations administered by the ODNI, and ensuring that the use of technology sustains, and does not erode, privacy.

Mr. Joel's appointment to this position was announced by Director John Negroponte on December 7, 2005. Mr. Joel had previously been performing the duties of that position on an interim basis.

Mr. Joel has more than a decade of experience with privacy, technology, and national security law. Mr. Joel was motivated to enter public service following 9/11. He joined the Central Intelligence Agency's Office of General Counsel in October 2002, where he provided legal advice relating to intelligence activities.

Prior to joining the government, Mr. Joel served as the privacy, technology, and e-commerce attorney for Marriott International, Inc., where he helped establish and implement Marriott's global privacy compliance program, including the creation of Marriott's first privacy officer position. Before that, he worked as a technology attorney at the law firm of Shaw, Pittman, Potts & Trowbridge in Washington, D.C. (now Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman), and as a U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps officer, with assignments that included prosecutor and criminal defense counsel.

Mr. Joel received his law degree from the University of Michigan in 1987, magna cum laude, where he was a member of the Michigan Law Review. He received his B.A. degree from Princeton University in 1984, magna cum laude.