



OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE
PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICE
WASHINGTON, D.C.
20511

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
July 2, 2009

ODNI News Release No. 25-09

NEW GENERAL COUNSEL JOINS THE ODNI

Robert S. Litt joined the Office of the Director of National Intelligence as the general counsel this week following his June 25 confirmation by the U.S. Senate. Litt was nominated by President Barack Obama on April 28, 2009.

“The general counsel has the important responsibility of providing sound legal guidance on critical national security issues facing the Intelligence Community,” said Director of National Intelligence Dennis C. Blair. “Bob’s previous experience in national security law is an asset to me and the entire ODNI, and I look forward to benefitting from his wise counsel on a wide range of intelligence issues.”

The general counsel is the chief legal officer of the ODNI. As the head of the Office of General Counsel, he is responsible for providing legal guidance and counsel to the DNI and the ODNI staff to assist the DNI in ensuring that activities of the Intelligence Community are carried out in compliance with the Constitution and laws of the United States.

Litt was a partner with the law firm of Arnold and Porter since 1999 before joining the ODNI. He was also a member of the governing body of the American Bar Association's Criminal Justice Section, and a member of the Advisory Committee to the Standing Committee on Law and National Security.

From 1993 to 1999, Litt worked at the Department of Justice where he served as a deputy assistant attorney general in the Criminal Division and then as the principal associate deputy attorney general. His duties at DOJ included Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act applications, covert action reviews, computer security and other national security matters.

Earlier in his legal career, Litt clerked for Judge Edward Weinfeld of the Southern District of New York and Justice Potter Stewart of the U.S. Supreme Court. From 1978 to 1984, he was an assistant U.S. attorney for the Southern District of New York. Litt also spent one year as a special advisor to the assistant secretary of state for European and Canadian affairs.

He holds a B.A. from Harvard College and an M.A. and law degree from Yale University.

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