

# Blas Nuñez-Neto

---

## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Expert in homeland security, counter-terrorism, travel, and trade policy with a broad contact base in the executive branch, Capitol Hill, foreign governments, and the private sector
- Extensive management experience, including helping to lead the largest federal law enforcement agency in the United States and leading oversight teams and investigations in Congress
- Published author with a broad range of experience writing products intended for professional audiences, the public, Congress, and the press
- Active TS/SCI Clearance

## EXPERIENCE

### **Biden-Harris Transition Team**

#### *Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Agency Review Team*

9/20 — 1/21

- Member of border and immigration sub-group
- Interviewed agency staff and conducted oversight of DHS component agencies
- Developed operational plans for first 200 days of Biden Administration

### **RAND Corporation**

7/17 — Present

#### *Associate Director, Homeland Security Operational Analysis Center*

- Serve as the Deputy Director of the Homeland Security Operational Analysis Center (HSOAC), the DHS Federally Funded Research and Development Center operated by the RAND Corporation.
- Manage HSOAC's day to day operations, including helping oversee budget formulation, contracts, personnel decisions, and quality assurance processes for a \$50 million a year enterprise.
- Help set HSOAC's strategic research priorities, guide investments in capabilities, and conduct outreach and educational activities for senior decisionmakers across DHS and its components agencies.

#### *Senior Policy Researcher*

- Demonstrated ability to lead high performing teams of researchers, develop innovative methodological approaches to overcome difficult policy challenges, manage relations with sponsors, and produce actionable results for multiple DHS components
  - Co-lead for the U.S. Virgin Islands Recovery Implementation Planning project, which seeks to inform how the Federal Emergency Management Administration and Territorial government are implementing recovery projects
  - Key member of the leadership team for the Puerto Rico Recovery Plan project, the largest and most complex undertaking in RAND's history.
    - Served as the project's liaison with the government of Puerto Rico, successfully creating buy in for the research plan.
    - Led a team of 10 researchers focusing on municipal governance issues that used an innovative mixed methods approach, including the first survey of municipal governments in Puerto Rico's history, to overcome the total lack of data related to municipal services and capacity.
  - Increased RAND's public profile on border security and immigration issues by participating in interviews for television outlets such as CNN and Univision, radio stations such as NPR, and print media such as the Washington Post, and by publishing opinion editorials for national media outlets.

## **Capgemini Government Solutions**

1/17 — 7/17

### ***Client Partner, Borders and Immigration***

- Member of leadership team for National Security and Defense portfolio
- Managed teams of consultants working at U.S. Customs and Border Protection and U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement
- Charged with business development and leading responses to government Requests for Proposals

## **U.S. Customs and Border Protection**

1/15 — 1/17

### ***Senior Advisor to the Commissioner***

- Senior member of the leadership team managing the day-to-day operations of the largest federal law enforcement agency, comprising 60,000 employees, a budget of \$14 billion, and charged with securing our borders while facilitating trade and travel
- Advanced the agency's key missions and priorities with senior White House officials, other federal, state, and local agencies, Congress, and non-governmental organizations, including efforts to:
  - Enhance the sharing of information with other countries and the advance screening of passengers and goods in order to keep threats from reaching our borders
  - Speed up the secure processing of travelers and cargo at our nation's ports of entry to generate economic growth; and
  - More effectively enforce our nation's immigration and customs laws at the border
- Represented the agency before a wide range of stakeholders, including oversight briefings with congressional staff, meetings with trade and travel stakeholder groups and non-governmental organizations, and during official delegations to foreign countries
- Promoted trade and travel facilitation and customs cooperation within the World Customs Organization and with Customs Administrations and trade stakeholders around the world
- Served as a key member of the Administration's efforts to normalize relations with Cuba, including:
  - Participated in the first delegation to Cuba for the Department of Homeland Security
  - Negotiated landmark international agreements with Cuba, including the first set of Memoranda of Agreement between U.S. law enforcement agencies and the government of Cuba
- Dual hatted as the functional chief of staff for the Office of International Affairs
  - Managed personnel deployed to more than 30 countries across the world
  - Assisted in developing and implementing the agency's strategy for engaging foreign partners

## **Senate Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee**

2/09 — 1/15

### ***Senior Professional Staff Member, Majority***

- Chief advisor for two Chairmen of the Committee on all issues related to Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, including border security, immigration enforcement, international screening, trade and travel facilitation, and preventing terrorist travel
- Conceptualized, formulated, and implemented the Committee's strategic plan for conducting oversight of federal agencies and programs
- Served as a lead investigator for a number of terrorism investigations, including wide-ranging reviews of the Christmas Day bombing, the Times Square bombing, and the Boston Marathon bombing
- Prepared a wide range of written products, including speeches, Committee Reports, policy documents, letters, memoranda, talking points, press releases, and Member statements
- Built and managed diverse issue-based strategic partnerships with other congressional offices, the Administration, external stakeholders, and foreign governments and institutions
- Drafted and negotiated legislation on a wide range of homeland security issues with the White House and executive branch agencies, other congressional offices, and national, state, and local organizations.
- Planned, coordinated, and executed more than 30 public oversight hearings

- Evaluated and interviewed nominees for high-level Presidential appointments, advised the Chairman on their qualifications, and organized nomination hearings
- Represented the Chairman and advanced key priorities before public interest groups, constituents, and international delegations
- Managed a team comprised of junior staff and personnel assigned to the Committee on detail from the executive branch.

**Congressional Research Service, Washington, DC**

7/04 — 2/09

***Analyst in Domestic Security, Criminal Justice, and Immigration***

- Provided expert analysis for Members of Congress in the areas of border security, homeland security appropriations and management, juvenile justice, and offender reentry
- Coordinated and led 20 analysts forming the CRS-wide Homeland Security Appropriations Team
- Testified before Congress and presented at a number of conferences and other professional events
- Authored more than 50 reports and memoranda for Congress
- Received three Distinguished Service Awards for dedicated service to the U.S. Congress, and three Special Achievement Awards in recognition of “Sustained Collaborative, Creative, and Informed Service to Congress in Providing Expert Analysis of Major, Fast Moving Legislation”
- Presidential Management Fellow

**Philadelphia Family Court Aftercare Project, Philadelphia, PA**

9/02 — 5/04

***Project Associate***

- Helped design and implement an aftercare performance management system for Philadelphia’s Family Court; received a Court Appreciation Award for actions taken for Philadelphia juveniles

**EDUCATION**

**The University of Pennsylvania: Fels Institute of Government**



- Masters in Government Administration, Certificate in Public Finance
- Leadership for Results Award

**The University of Pennsylvania: College of Arts and Sciences**



- B.A. in Political Science, B.A. in English
- Cum Laude Honors

**SELECTED PUBLICATIONS**

- RAND Reports
  - Culbertson, S., Nuñez-Neto, B., Acosta, J., Cook, C., Lauland, A., Leuschner, K., Nataraj, S., Preston, B., Resetar, S., Resnick, A., Roberts, P., Shatz, H.; *Recovery in the U.S. Virgin Islands: Progress, Challenges, and Options for the Future*, RR-A282-1
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., Lauland, A., Aguirre, J., Castro, G., Gutierrez, I., Lara, M., Rosas, E., Weidmer, B.; *The Front Lines of Recovery in Puerto Rico: Assessing Hurricane Damage, Needs, and Opportunities for Recovery in Puerto Rico’s Municipalities*, Santa Monica, Calif.: RAND Corporation, RR-2604-DHS.
  - Culbertson, S., Bordeaux, J., Gutierrez, I., Lauland, A., Leuschner, K., Nuñez-Neto, B., Saum-Manning, L., *Building Capacity of Puerto Rico’s Municipalities for Reconstruction*, Santa Monica, Calif.: RAND Corporation, RR-3401-DHS, forthcoming.
  - Greenfield, V., Nuñez-Neto, B., Mitch, I., Chang, J., Rosas, E., *Human Smuggling and Associated Revenues: What Do or Can We Know About Routes from Central America to the United States?* Santa Monica, Calif.: RAND Corporation, RR-2852-DHS.

- Testimony, News Coverage, and Editorials
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., “Common Sense Solutions to the Border Crisis,” *The Hill*, May 2, 2019.
  - Interviewed for: Serbia, X., “¿Cómo funciona el tráfico humano en la frontera EE.UU.-México?”, *CNN Español*, April 25, 2019.
  - Interviewed for: Gato, P., Arroyo, L., “Llevar indocumentados a EEUU, un negocio multimillonario ilegal que no disminuye con las caravanas,” *Univision*, April 24, 2019.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., “The Wall Is Not the Only Answer,” *The Hill*, February 8, 2019.
  - Quoted in: Berkowitz, B., Tan, S., Uhrmacher, K., “Beyond the wall: Dogs, blimps and other things used to secure the border,” *The Washington Post*, February 8, 2019.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., “America's Overwhelmed Immigration System,” *Dallas Morning News*, December 5, 2018.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., “New Border Policy Could Have Unintended Consequences,” *United Press International*, May 21, 2018.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., “Prioritizing Security at the U.S. Border with Mexico,” *U.S. News and World Report*, January 29, 2018.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., “The Big Border Security Question,” *U.S. News and World Report*, December 9, 2017.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., “Broken Border or Broken Policy?” *U.S. News and World Report*, November 17, 2017.
  - Testimony before the House Committee on International Relations, Subcommittee on International Terrorism and Non-Proliferation, hearing on “Border Vulnerabilities and International Terrorism,” July 7, 2006.
- Congressional Reports:
  - *Border Patrol Agent Pay Reform Act*, Report of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, United States Senate, to Accompany S. 1691, S. Rpt. 113-248, August 24, 2014.
  - *Department of Homeland Security Authorization Act of 2012*, Report of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, United States Senate, to Accompany S. 1546, S. Rpt. 112-249, December 13, 2012.
  - *Jaime Zapata Border Enforcement Security Taskforce Act*, Report of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, United States Senate, to Accompany H.R. 195, S. Rpt. 112-206, August 28, 2012.
  - *Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation Business Travel Cards Act of 2011*, Report of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, United States Senate, to Accompany S. 1487, S. Rpt. 112-92, November 8, 2011.
  - *Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010*, Report of the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, United States Senate, to Accompany S. 3243, S. Rpt. 111-338, September 29, 2010.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., *Border Security: The Role of the U.S. Border Patrol*, Washington D.C., Congressional Research Service Report.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., *Border Security: Apprehensions of “Other Than Mexican” Aliens*, Washington D.C., Congressional Research Service Report.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., *Border Security: Barriers Along the U.S. International Border*, Washington D.C., Congressional Research Service Report.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., *Border Security: Key Agencies and their Missions*, Washington D.C., Congressional Research Service Report.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., *Border Security: The San Diego Fence*, Washington D.C., Congressional Research Service Report.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., Viña, *Civilian Patrols Along the Border: Legal and Policy Issues*, Washington D.C.,

- Congressional Research Service Report.
- Lake, J., Nuñez-Neto, B., *Department of Homeland Security: FY2008 Appropriations*, Washington D.C., Congressional Research Service Report.
  - Lake, J., Nuñez-Neto, B., *Department of Homeland Security: FY2007 Appropriations*, Washington D.C., Congressional Research Service Report
  - Lake, J., Nuñez-Neto, B., *Department of Homeland Security: FY2006 Appropriations*, Washington D.C., Congressional Research Service Report.
  - Siskin, A., Nuñez-Neto, B., *Immigration Enforcement Within the United States*, Washington D.C., Congressional Research Service Report.
  - *Congress and Program Evaluation: An Overview of Randomized Controlled Trials*, Washington D.C., Congressional Research Service Report.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., Viña, S., *Civilian Patrols Along the Border: Legal and Policy Issues*, Washington D.C., Congressional Research Service Report.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., *Juvenile Justice: Overview of Legislative History and Funding Trends*, Washington D.C., Congressional Research Service Report.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., *Juvenile Justice: Legislative History and Issues for Congress*, Washington D.C., Congressional Research Service Report.
  - Nuñez-Neto, B., *Offender Reentry: Correctional Statistics, Reintegration into the Community, and Recidivism*, Washington D.C., Congressional Research Service Report.
  - Wasem, R., Bruno, A., Nuñez-Neto, B., Siskin, A., *Immigration Legislation and Issues in the 109<sup>th</sup> and 110<sup>th</sup> Congress*, Washington D.C., Congressional Research Service Report.