

Contact

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Top Skills

Microsoft PowerPoint
Policy Analysis
Policy

Traci Ballard Silas, J.D.

Senior Executive Service
United States

Summary

Energetic, strategic, decisive and motivated team player - often echoing "we are significantly stronger together."

Experience

U.S. Department of Homeland Security
13 years 2 months

Executive Director, Academic Engagement
May 2021 - Present (2 years 5 months)
Washington, District of Columbia, United States

In support of the DHS Secretary and Deputy Secretary - create, maintain, and lead partnerships/engagements/outreach with top leaders across the academic community. This includes driving engagements spanning K-12, colleges, universities, specialty schools, language services, school/campus safety, teacher unions, etc. on a wide range of homeland security matters (i.e. domestic violent extremism, national security, critical infrastructure, border security, immigration, cybersecurity, climate resilience, trafficking, etc).

Senior Director, various roles
August 2010 - April 2022 (11 years 9 months)
Washington DC-Baltimore Area

Various leadership roles spanning Federal Advisory Committees, temporary senior leadership assignments, championing change agent for new initiatives, and more.

Example: The establishing Designated Federal Officer for Faith Based Security Advisory Council (FBSAC), an organizationally independent, nonpartisan council providing advice and recommendations to the Secretary of Homeland Security on matters related to protecting houses of worship, preparedness and enhanced coordination with the faith community.

U.S. Customs and Border Protection
Division Director - Forced Labor, International Trade
January 2018 - May 2018 (5 months)

Washington, District Of Columbia

- Drafted and acted on recommendations for the enforcement of forced labor, including Section 307 of the Tariff Act, which prohibits the import of goods that CBP has reason to believe contains forced labor in the supply chain of the relevant commodity
- Secured division resources and hired to fill staffing needs, including managing a diverse team of roughly a dozen branch chiefs, international trade analysts, law enforcement agents, regulatory audit analysts, contractors, and researchers
- Drove forced labor case identification and prioritization for CBP's Commissioner and DHS Secretary
- Led stakeholder engagements with the private sector, international partners, law enforcement agencies, and news media
- Made case initiation and case termination determinations; issued withhold release orders (WRO) and conclusive findings recommendations
- Managed and facilitated internal CBP reviews and approvals

Education

Harvard Kennedy School

Senior Executive Fellows Program, Certificate · (2021)

Professional Development - Harvard Division of Continuing Education

Certificate, Innovation and Strategy · (2017 - 2017)

Partnership for Public Service

Excellence in Government Senior Fellows Program, Certificate · (2016 - 2017)

Maurice A. Deane School of Law at Hofstra University

Juris Doctor; Certifications, General; International Law and Real Estate Law · (2006 - 2006)

University of the Netherlands Antilles

J.D., EU Law, Use of Force Law · (2005 - 2006)