



PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

NEW PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD CHAIR AND BOARD MEMBER TAKE OATHS OF OFFICE

WASHINGTON, DC – Sharon Bradford Franklin was sworn-in as Chair of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board and Beth A. Williams was sworn-in as Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board on Wednesday, February 23, 2022.

Ms. Franklin and Ms. Williams were nominated to the Board by President Joseph R. Biden on November 15, 2021, and were confirmed by the Senate on February 7, 2022.

Judge Jane Richards Roth, United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit, administered the oath of office for Ms. Franklin.

Associate Justice Amy Coney Barrett, Supreme Court of the United States, administered the oath of office for Ms. Williams in a private ceremony.

In Ms. Franklin's first address to the agency, the new Chair of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board described her vision for the Board's oversight mission. She noted that the 9/11 Commission recommended the creation of the Board to provide "a voice within the executive branch" to ensure liberty concerns are considered in the post-9/11 security environment, and continued:

"It is our job to provide a voice within the executive branch for privacy and civil liberties. ... The agency's role is not only to assess whether counterterrorism activities are undertaken in compliance with existing laws and guidance, but also, and critically, to ask whether certain actions should be allowed, and should be undertaken. Is this program effective? Is the intrusion on privacy and civil liberties necessary to achieve operational benefits? Can the program be operated in a way that avoids such intrusions? What types of safeguards should be baked in to provide robust protections for privacy and civil liberties?"

"I believe this is an agency where we really can make a difference by serving as a voice for privacy and civil liberties concerns, speaking to the federal agencies that operate counterterrorism programs, and also as a voice speaking to inform the public to the greatest extent possible."

Ms. Williams addressed the agency as Board Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board. In her remarks, Ms. Williams emphasized the Board's role in the nation's counterterrorism mission and the importance of the Board's bipartisan nature:

"Our counterterrorism missions are as crucial now as they were twenty years ago. But in our mission to protect America, we cannot lose sight of the freedoms that make us Americans ...

"In its wisdom, Congress made the Board a bipartisan agency. That is important because our voice is strongest when we speak as one."

Biographies for Ms. Franklin and Ms. Williams can be found below:

Sharon Bradford Franklin, Chair of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, previously served as Co-Director of the Security and Surveillance Project at the Center for Democracy & Technology (CDT), leading advocacy on a broad range of issues involving surveillance, cybersecurity, encryption, civil liberties, and civil rights.

Before joining CDT, Ms. Franklin was the Policy Director for New America's Open Technology Institute (OTI), directing OTI's policy work on issues including cybersecurity, encryption, freedom of expression online, government surveillance, privacy, and platform accountability.

From 2013 through 2017, Ms. Franklin served as Executive Director of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, where her work included reviewing federal counterterrorism activities in support of the Board's mission to ensure that such programs include appropriate safeguards for privacy and civil liberties.

Previously, Ms. Franklin served as Senior Counsel at the Constitution Project, a nonprofit legal watchdog group, where her work included participating as a member of the Cybersecurity Subcommittee for the Department of Homeland Security's Data Privacy and Integrity Advisory Committee.

Ms. Franklin has also served as a Trial Attorney in the Housing & Civil Enforcement Section of the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice, worked on civil rights policy matters as Special Counsel in the Office of General Counsel at the Federal Communications Commission, and served as Executive Director of the Washington Council of Lawyers.

Ms. Franklin began her legal career as a judicial law clerk to the Honorable Jane R. Roth. She graduated from Harvard College and Yale Law School.

Beth A. Williams, Member of the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board, previously served as Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy at the United States Department of Justice from August 2017 to December 2020. In that role, she served as the primary policy advisor to the Attorney General and the Deputy Attorney

General, and as the Chief Regulatory Officer for the Department. Ms. Williams also led the judicial nomination process for the Department, assisting in the selection and confirmation of more than 230 Article III judges to the bench.

Prior to becoming Assistant Attorney General, Ms. Williams was a litigation and appellate partner at Kirkland & Ellis LLP, where her practice focused on complex commercial, securities, and First Amendment litigation.

From 2005-2006, Ms. Williams served as Special Counsel to the United States Senate Committee on the Judiciary, where she assisted with the confirmation of Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. and Associate Justice Samuel A. Alito, Jr. to the United States Supreme Court.

Ms. Williams clerked for the Hon. Richard C. Wesley on the United State Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. She graduated from Harvard College magna cum laude, with a degree in History and Literature, and she earned her law degree from Harvard Law School, where she served as Executive Editor of the Harvard Journal of Law and Public Policy.

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The Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board is an independent agency within the Executive Branch established by the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007. The Board's mission is to ensure that the federal government's efforts to prevent terrorism are balanced with the need to protect privacy and civil liberties. The Board's current Members are Sharon Bradford Franklin, Chair, Edward W. Felten, Travis LeBlanc, and Beth A. Williams.