Dentons Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank

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Critical Infrastructure Security and Resilience: Mitigating Evolving Threats
Tuesday, July 22, 2025 11:30am-1:00pm ET



Moderator: Clint Vince, Chair of the US Energy practice, Co-chair of the Global Transportation & Infrastructure sector for the US Region, and Co-chair of the Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank, Dentons



Welcome: Linda Willard, Energy Counsel and Executive Director of the Global Smart Cities & Connected Communities Think Tank, Dentons



Kelli Andrews
Senior Director,
Cybersecurity & Lawful
Access Policy,
Microsoft Corporation

Panelist

Kelli Andrews is Senior Director for Cybersecurity and Lawful Access Policy at Microsoft, where she is responsible for advancing Microsoft's public policy initiatives in the areas of cybersecurity, artificial intelligence, cybercrime and lawful access in the executive and legislative branches. Prior to joining Microsoft, Kelli spent almost a decade at the US Department of Justice, where she most recently served as Chief of Staff and Senior Counsel in the National Security Division. In that role, her portfolio consisted of leading litigation, policy and legislative matters spanning national security issues including cybersecurity, surveillance technology, counterterrorism and CFIUS. While at the Department of Justice's National Security Division, Kelli served in several other leadership roles, including as Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General and Deputy Chief of the Counterterrorism Section. Prior to DOJ, Kelli spent several years at the US Department of Homeland Security where she served as Deputy Chief of the National Security Law Division. In addition to her prosecutorial experience, Kelli also has extensive experience on Capitol Hill having worked as Majority Counsel for the House Committee on Energy and Commerce for almost five years and as Counsel to the Ranking Member on the Senate Judiciary Committee. Kelli also spent time in private practice at DC law firms and began her career as an Assistant State Attorney in Miami, Florida. Currently, Kelli is an Adjunct Professor of Law at George Mason University, Antonin Scalia Law School and is a Fellow with the National Security Institute. She earned a JD from Cornell Law School and a BA from Bucknell University



Harry Coker, Jr. Secretary, Maryland Department of Commerce

Panelist

The Honorable Harry Coker Jr was appointed by Governor Moore as Maryland's Secretary of Commerce on February 5, 2025. At Commerce, the state's primary economic development agency, Coker is focused on working collaboratively to help Maryland "Win the Decade" by developing and sustaining an equitable, robust and competitive economy.

Secretary Coker is a retired Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) senior executive, former National Security Agency (NSA) senior executive and career Naval Officer. He was previously America's National Cyber Director, serving in the White House from 2023 - 2025.

While serving as Executive Director of the NSA, he directly supported the Director and Deputy Director in the strategic and day-to-day leadership of the Agency. During his service with the CIA, Coker was assigned to leadership positions in the Directorate of Digital Innovation; the Directorate of Science & Technology; and the Director's Area.

Coker's service to the nation has been recognized with the awarding of the National Intelligence Distinguished Service Medal, the Presidential Rank Award, the NSA Director's Distinguished Service Medal, the Intelligence Community EEOD Outstanding Leadership Award, and CIA's Don Cryer Award for Diversity & Inclusion leadership.

Outside of the government, Coker has served as the President of the Central Intelligence Retirees Association (CIRA) and on the Boards of Directors of the US Naval Academy Foundation; the US Navy Memorial; and Dog Tag, Inc. He also served as an Operating Partner with C5 Capital; an Outside Director for JSI Telecom, Inc; on the Strategic Advisory Committee for Octasic, Inc.; on the Editorial Board of Studies in Intelligence; and on the Advisory Boards of Zeeam Government Solutions; and Historic Ships in Baltimore. Coker also served as a Senior Fellow with Auburn University's McCrary Institute for Cyber and Critical Infrastructure Security.

A long-time resident of Clinton, MD, Coker currently resides in Baltimore. He is a graduate of the United States Naval Academy, the Naval Postgraduate School, and Georgetown University Law Center.



Brett Freedman
Senior Director of
Emerging Technology, The
Institute for Critical
Infrastructure Technology

Panelist

Brett is the Senior Director for Emerging Technology at the Institute for Critical Infrastructure Technology (ICIT), a leading nonprofit, nonpartisan 501(c)(3) focused exclusively on CI. An accomplished public servant and leading expert on national security, cybersecurity, and emerging technology, Brett served for nearly the last two decades at the highest levels of the US government. Brett's government tenure includes serving as a Legislative Assistant for a Congressman, as a Presidential Management Fellow in the Department of Homeland Security, as well as an Attorney at the National Security Agency and in the National Counterterrorism Center in the Office of the Director of National Intelligence. In 2013, Brett served as the Counsel to the President's Review Group on Intelligence and Communications Technologies which examined the disclosures of classified information by Edward Snowden. He then served as Counsel to the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence, including as General Counsel for then-Chairman Mark R. Warner (D-VA). Most recently, Brett was Chief of Staff for Assistant Attorney General Matthew G. Olsen of the National Security Division at the Department of Justice, helping oversee the daily operations of several hundred attorneys in foreign investment, counterterrorism, counterespionage, and cybersecurity. Brett holds a Juris Doctorate, a Master of Law and Diplomacy, and a Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs. He is also an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University in cybersecurity.





Max Carr-Howard
Partner, Co-chair of the
Global Compliance and
Investigations Team,
Dentons

Panelist

Max serves as co-chair of the Global Compliance and Investigations team and has over twenty-five years of experience prosecuting, defending and investigating individual and corporate conduct subject to US jurisdiction. He began his career as a federal prosecutor at the United States Department of Justice. Since then, he has served as a trial lawyer defending both corporations and individuals charged with federal crimes. Max has lived and worked in Europe for more than six years, conducting corporate investigations into serious allegation of criminal wrongdoing around the globe, including Europe, Africa, the Middle East, the Americas and Asia.

Max continues to lead global compliance teams and investigations from his home base in Washington, DC. He has extensive experience in conducting complex cross-border investigations into allegations of corruption, fraud, anti-competitive conduct, money laundering, and violations of US economic sanctions, embargoes and export controls. He has also built multinational corporate compliance programs, conducted audits of existing programs, and provides guidance on state-of-the-art enhancements to those programs.

Max regularly negotiates with and litigates against the US Department of Justice and Security and Exchange Commission. He has also worked with a number of enforcement agencies around the world. As a result of his track record, Max has been asked to speak on cross-border investigations and compliance at various multinational gatherings, including the American Bar Association's International White Collar Crime Conference in London.

Max is a member of Dentons' Global Inclusion Advisory Council, the US Diversity and Inclusion Committee and ESG Advisory Board. He also serves as co-chair of the Firm's Disability and Accessibility Affinity Group.