



Secretary Kirstjen Nielsen



Currently: 6th Secretary of Homeland Security (45 years old)

Education: Georgetown University School of Foreign Service & University of Virginia School of Law with a Juris Doctor.

Private Sector: Ms. Nielsen was the Founder and President of Sunesis Consulting, LLC, an emerging risk and security management consulting firm. There she guided government and private sector entities in identifying and understanding emerging threats and risks trends.

Prior to founding Sunesis Consulting, LLC, Ms. Nielsen was the General Counsel and President of the Homeland Security and Private Sector Preparedness practice at Civitas Group, a strategy and management consulting firm focused on the security and government sectors.

Government: Special Assistant to the President for Homeland Security and Senior Director for Prevention, Preparedness, and Response on the White House Homeland Security Council (President George W. Bush).

She developed and coordinated U.S. Government homeland security policy on issues ranging from cybersecurity, to public alert and warning, to improvised explosive devices to information sharing.

She has also held positions at the Transportation Security Agency and the U.S. Senate, and practiced corporate transactional law for Haynes and Boone.

She most recently served as Chief of Staff to Secretary Kelly at DHS and Deputy Chief of Staff in the WH.

Areas of Expertise: Cybersecurity, homeland and national security (ranging from natural disasters to man-made threats), business continuity, incident management, critical infrastructure security and resilience, and threat and risk trend analysis.