



Maria M. Odom serves as the Citizenship and Immigration Services Ombudsman for the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. The Ombudsman's Office is dedicated to improving the quality of citizenship and immigration services delivered to the public by providing individual case assistance, as well as making recommendations to improve the administration of immigration benefits. Odom came to the Department as a legal expert with a wide range of immigration experience in the government, private and charitable sectors. Most recently, Odom led the country's largest network of charitable legal immigration programs as the Executive Director of the Catholic Legal Immigration Network, Inc. (CLINIC). Odom practiced immigration law in the southeast for many years, leading a successful private practice in the area of defense from removal along with business and family-based immigration. Early in her career, Odom served as Assistant District Counsel for the legacy Immigration and Naturalization Service and as a judicial law clerk at the Executive Office for Immigration Review. Odom currently serves as Chair of the Department's Blue Campaign, the unified voice for DHS's efforts to combat human trafficking through training and public education. Odom is a graduate of Florida State University College of Criminology and the Mercer University Walter F. George School of Law. In 2010, Odom was honored with the degree of Doctor of Humane Letters by the College of New Rochelle in New York.