

Dr. Christopher Swift

Dr. Christopher Swift is an adjunct professor of national security studies at Georgetown University and a fellow at the University of Virginia Law School's Center for National Security Law. An attorney and political scientist, Dr. Swift brings more than fifteen years of multidisciplinary experience to his research on terrorist syndicates, the future of armed conflict, and the intersection between constitutional law, international law, and national security.

Dr. Swift is the author of the forthcoming book *The Fighting Vanguard: Local Insurgencies in the Global Jihad*. Drawing on field research in Afghanistan, Yemen, and other contemporary conflict zones, the book untangles the complex global web of terrorist movements by examining al-Qaeda's relationships with indigenous militants. By identifying the factors that bring these groups together, *The Fighting Vanguard* charts a new course for driving them apart.

In addition to his academic pursuits, Dr. Swift is a Senior Counsel with Foley & Lardner LLP. As a member of the firm's white-collar litigation, national security, and international practices, he counsels clients on matters involving counterproliferation, counterterrorism, economic sanctions, export controls, foreign investment, international trade agreements, and other aspects of public and private international law. He also represents *pro-bono* clients in matters involving constitutional law, veterans' law, and refugee and asylum law.

Prior to entering private legal practice, Dr. Swift served in the U.S. Treasury Department's Office of Foreign Assets Control (OFAC), where he investigated illicit commercial and financial transactions involving terrorist syndicates, weapons proliferators, rogue states, and other sanctioned entities. He also served as an international law fellow at the U.S. Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF), where he advised policymakers on terrorism, sectarian violence, and human rights in Afghanistan, Iraq, and the former Soviet Union.

Dr. Swift was previously affiliated with Freedom House, where he worked on Russian affairs, and the Center for Strategic & International Studies, where he served as an aide to former national security advisor Zbigniew Brzezinski. His policy experience includes work as a research associate at Dartmouth College, where he examined asymmetric warfare and bioterrorism as part of a broader study of emerging homeland security threats.

In addition to advising U.S. policymakers on terrorism, national security, and legal issues, Dr. Swift also appeared as a guest analyst for ABC News, Al-Jazeera, the BBC, CBS News, CNN, Fox News, National Public Radio, and other leading broadcast media. An Eagle Scout and graduate of the Derryfield School, he earned an A.B. in government and history from Dartmouth College, a J.D. from Georgetown University, and an M.St. and Ph.D. in politics and international studies from the University of Cambridge.