

Kemba Walden



Kemba Walden stands at the forefront of cybersecurity and national security, combining a wealth of government and private sector experience with a vision for a secure digital future. As the Acting United States National Cyber Director from February to November of 2023, our nation's highest-ranking leaders looked to her to shape the national cybersecurity policies and strategies that protect our critical infrastructure and make cyberspace safer for the organizations and individuals who depend on its stability and security. Walden, who has also served as assistant general counsel for Microsoft's Digital Crimes Unit, is one of the most respected figures in cybersecurity circles, as well as one of the most sought-after thought leaders for organizations seeking to better understand how they can maximize the security of their businesses in a constantly evolving cyber landscape.

Today, she is the president of the Paladin Global Institute, which was founded to bring the private capital perspective into technology policy. She also serves on the Boards of Endgame Systems LLC and Woods Academy. At the Office of the National Cyber Director (ONCD), her tenure was marked by the implementation of innovative initiatives that bolstered the nation's cyber defense capabilities, as well as a refreshingly collaborative approach between the private and public sectors to secure critical technology from increasingly complex cyber threats. Among various roles of influence throughout her career, Walden also served a decade at the United States Department of Homeland Security (DHS) — most recently at the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency. Between the DHS and ONCD, she was at Microsoft for three years, advising on advancing its cyber practices, promoting responsible innovation and attacking the scourge of ransomware crime.

Since 2019, Walden has been an adjunct professor of information security law and regulatory compliance at Georgetown University's School of Continuing Studies, which she balances with her duties as a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, Atlantic Council Board of Directors, as well as co-chair of the Aspen Institute's U.S. Cybersecurity Group. She was also appointed as an inaugural member of the Cyber Safety Review Board. Holding a Juris Doctor degree from Georgetown University Law Center, her academic background, coupled with her extensive professional experience, has equipped her with a unique perspective on the intersection of law, policy, and technology.

In addition to cybersecurity and emerging technology, Ms. Walden is an accomplished CFIUS and Team Telecom attorney. She started her professional career in international development, which led to her living and working in Mali, Switzerland, the Bahamas, and the former Soviet country of Georgia. She and her husband Matthew Walden have two children and live in Kensington, Maryland.

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SUMMARY OVERVIEW OF EXPERIENCE CAREER EXPERIENCE

2024 - present	PALADIN CAPITAL GROUP <i>President, Paladin Global Institute</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop insights into U.S. and global government policies and legislative actionsProvide strategic advice for investment in portfolio companiesTestified before the House Financial Services Committee on ransomware.	Washington, D.C.
2024 - present	BOARD OF MANAGERS, ENDGAME SYSTEMS LLC	Washington, D.C.
2022-2023	THE WHITE HOUSE, EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT <i>Interim National Cyber Director</i> (2023) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Launched the National Cybersecurity Strategy and corresponding Implementation PlanExecuted the National Cyber Workforce and Education StrategyExecuted the Administration's Cybersecurity Priorities for fiscal year 2025Testified before the House Homeland Security Committee on the National Cybersecurity Strategy <i>Principal Deputy National Cyber Director</i> (2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Established the Office of the National Cyber Director (ONCD) and led a team of over 75 cyber experts and managed a budget of over \$21 million.Served as a member of the Cyber Safety Review Board (CSRB) and contributed to the report entitled "Review of the Attacks Associated with Lapsus\$ and Related Threat Groups."	Washington, D.C.
2019-2022	MICROSOFT <i>Assistant General Counsel, Digital Crimes Unit</i> (2020-2022) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Established and led Microsoft's Digital Crimes Unit counter-ransomware program overseeing a staff and cross functional team with a budget allocation of more than \$500,000. Co-led and funded the Ransomware Task Force.Testified before the Energy & Commerce Committee on ransomware.Served as an inaugural private sector member of the CSRB and contributed to the report entitled "Review of the December 2021 Log4j Event." <i>Senior Counsel, Cyber and Democracy</i> (2019-2020) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Advised Microsoft on national security, supply chain security, and cybersecurity lawsProvided legal counsel to the Defending Democracy Program through the 2020 Presidential Election.	Washington, D.C.
2009-2019	UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY <i>Senior Cybersecurity Attorney, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Agency</i> (2015-2019) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Provided legal counsel on defending elections infrastructure during the 2016 and 2018 National Elections.Negotiated complex data protection, information sharing, risk mitigation, and national security agreements; supported DHS's cybersecurity and risk management efforts in critical infrastructure sectors including the financial, energy, and election sectors <i>Attorney-Advisor, CFIUS and Team Telecom</i> , (2009-2015) <ul style="list-style-type: none">Analyzed hundreds of transactions before CFIUS to determine whether any existing legal authorities are appropriate or adequate to mitigate identified national security risks.Drafted dozens of agreements between the U.S. Government and private parties to mitigate national security concerns arising from transactions reviewed by CFIUS and Team Telecom	City, State/Country

EDUCATION

1999-2002	GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY LAW CENTER , <i>Juris Doctor</i> , 2002	Washington D.C.
1994-1996	PRINCETON UNIVERSITY , <i>Master in Public Administration</i> , 1996	Washington D.C.
1991-1994	HAMPTON UNIVERSITY , <i>Bachelor of Arts, summa cum laude</i>	Hampton, Va