



Alan Cohn

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Areas of Practice

- Cybersecurity, Privacy & National Security
- Government Affairs & Public Policy
- National and Homeland Security

Education

- Georgetown University Law Center, J.D., *cum laude*, 1997
- Columbia University, A.B., History and Political Science, 1993

Alan Cohn is of counsel in Steptoe's Washington office, where he advises clients on cybersecurity, emerging technology issues, and other national security concerns. Mr. Cohn focuses his practice in the areas where security, technology, and innovation intersect with government policy, process, and regulation. Prior to joining the firm Mr. Cohn served in senior policy positions at the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) for almost a decade, most recently as the assistant secretary for Strategy, Planning, Analysis & Risk and second-in-charge overall of the DHS Office of Policy.

Mr. Cohn's areas of focus include:

- Legal and policy issues associated with cybersecurity, cyber incident preparedness and response, cyber insurance, and cyber risk management and standard of care
- Government and law enforcement regulation and policy concerns associated with emerging technology, including unmanned airborne systems and other sensor technologies, cryptocurrencies and emerging financial technologies, and big data applications
- National security review of foreign investments, acquisitions, and US license applications by the Committee for Foreign Investment in the United States (CFIUS), the US Department of Defense, and the Federal Communications Commission (FCC), and associated compliance process

Mr. Cohn established the cyber policy office within the DHS Office of Policy, and helped shape department policy on issues such as cybersecurity information sharing, cybercrime and cyber-related sanctions, and cyber incident management. He also designed and led the first two Quadrennial Homeland Security Reviews—comprehensive year-long reviews of homeland security—including the long-term macro-level trends analysis and risk assessments that formed the foundation for homeland security strategy and policy. Mr. Cohn represented DHS at CFIUS at both the assistant secretary and deputy secretary level, and in interagency policy debates on issues such as national security strategy, cybersecurity policy, and international security policy. Mr. Cohn's responsibilities required broad

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knowledge and understanding of all aspects of DHS activities and its component organizations, including the National Protection and Programs Directorate (DHS's cybersecurity and critical infrastructure security and resilience organization), US Customs and Border Protection (CBP), US Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE), US Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS), the Transportation Security Administration (TSA), the Secret Service, the Coast Guard, and the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA). He managed strategic assessments on issues such as aviation, maritime, and surface transportation security, border and port security, narcotics trafficking and cross-border crime, global supply chain security, cybersecurity and cybercrime, and disaster response and recovery. Mr. Cohn also helped implement DHS Secretary Jeh Johnson's Unity of Effort initiative, a major corporate-level DHS integration and reform effort. Prior to government service, Mr. Cohn represented major corporations in federal and state court litigation, labor negotiations, and matters involving federal agencies, including the US Department of Labor.

Select Seminars & Events

"Cyber *IN*Security," Legal 500 Roundtable, June 16, 2015

Selected Publications

After OPM Hack, Three Steps to Improve Government Cybersecurity
June 12, 2015, *The Christian Science Monitor*

Domestic Preparedness: Law, Policy, and National Security (Carolina Academic Press 2012)
April 17, 2012

Professional Affiliations

Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University Law Center and control team member, National Security Crisis Law simulation and interschool invitational

Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Brent Scowcroft Center on International Security, The Atlantic Council

Member, Meta-Council on the Illicit Economy, and Member, Cybercrime Steering Committee, World Economic Forum