

Ambassador Luis C.deBaca (ret.)

Ambassador (ret.) Luis C.deBaca is a Professor from Practice at the University of Michigan Law School who led US government activities in the global fight against contemporary forms of slavery during the Obama administration.

Following his graduation from Michigan Law School, C.deBaca was selected for the Attorney General's Honors Program and became one of the country's most decorated federal prosecutors. In the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice (DOJ) he investigated and prosecuted cases of human trafficking, hate crimes, and police misconduct, as well as immigration, organized crime, and money laundering.

C.deBaca investigated and prosecuted complex criminal cases and built his litigation record into policy, incorporating the voices of victims, workers, and the advocacy community into decision making. As principal DOJ drafter of the U.S. Trafficking Victims Protection Act and a member of the team that negotiated the United Nations' anti-trafficking protocol, he helped to enshrine the "3P" anti-trafficking approach of prevention, protection, and prosecution in US and international practice. Updating statutes created after the Civil War and through the 13th Amendment, he developed the victim-centered approach to modern slavery that has become the global standard for combating human trafficking.

Following his prosecution career, he served as counsel to the House Committee on the Judiciary, where he handled issues of civil rights, immigration, and civil liberties, including revisions to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act. He served as director of the State Department's Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking in Persons from 2009 to 2014 and as the director of the Justice Department's Office for Sex Offender Monitoring, Apprehending, Registering, and Tracking from 2015 to 2017.

After retiring from government service, C.deBaca was a Senior Fellow of Modern Slavery at Yale University's Gilder Lehrman Center for the Study of Slavery, Resistance, and Abolition, and served as a lecturer in law at Yale Law School and lecturer of architecture at Yale School of Architecture. He was a 2017-2019 Soros Open Society Human Rights Fellow focusing on worker-led social responsibility and is a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He joined the Michigan Law faculty in Fall, 2021.