Kate Heinzelman

On July 19, 2022, Kate Heinzelman was sworn in as CIA's 21st General Counsel after being confirmed to the position by the U.S. Senate. She came to the position after serving as Chief Counselor in the Office of the Attorney General at the U.S. Department of Justice, in which capacity she helped manage the office and advised the Attorney General, with a particular focus on national security matters.

From 2017 until 2020, Ms. Heinzelman worked in the D.C. office of the international law firm Sidley Austin LLP. She was a partner in the firm's privacy and cybersecurity group, where her practice focused on advising clients on a range of privacy and cybersecurity and healthcare matters, and included counseling, crisis response, and litigation matters.

During the Obama-Biden Administration, Ms. Heinzelman served as Deputy General Counsel at the U.S. Department of Health & Human Services, Special Assistant and Associate Counsel to the President in the Office of the White House Counsel, and Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for National Security at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Ms. Heinzelman's national security career began at CIA, where she served as an intern analyst while studying at Yale University. Following her undergraduate work, from 2004 to 2005, Ms. Heinzelman worked at the President's Commission on the Intelligence Capabilities of the United States Regarding Weapons of Mass Destruction. In that role, she assisted in the Commission's investigation and drafting the Commission's final report. After working for the Commission, Ms. Heinzelman joined the Office of the Director of National Intelligence to help establish the office during its first year in operation under Ambassador John D. Negroponte, the first Director of National Intelligence.

Ms. Heinzelman served as a law clerk to Supreme Court Chief Justice John G. Roberts, Jr. and to Judge Merrick B. Garland on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit. She received her law degree from Yale Law School and her B.A. from Yale University.