

July 13, 2021

The Honorable Dick Durbin  
Chairman  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
Ranking Member  
Committee on the Judiciary  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Re: Nomination of Matthew G. Olsen to be Assistant Attorney General, National Security Division, Department of Justice (PN610)

Dear Chairman Durbin and Ranking Member Grassley:

We write today to unanimously express our strong support for the nomination of Matt Olsen to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for National Security at the Department of Justice. We represent a bipartisan cross-section of former government officials and national security experts who have worked with Matt in his various roles in the government and industry.

In our view, Matt is an ideal candidate for this position because he brings to bear an unimpeachable track record of service to our nation and a deep background in national security and cybersecurity matters. These attributes will serve him well should the Senate see fit to confirm him to this position. In many ways, it would be hard to find another leader more qualified to protect our nation from terrorists and foreign adversaries like China, Russia, Iran, and North Korea, all of whom seek to take advantage of our nation across a range of areas, from attacks our citizens and businesses in both the physical and cyber domains, to espionage conducted in traditional and non-traditional ways.

Matt began his career in government service as a trial attorney in the Justice Department and as a federal prosecutor in the nation's capital, including as the head of the National Security Section of the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia. Matt went on to serve as Special Counsel to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), and then to the National Security Division, where he helped set up the very component he is now nominated to lead, first heading up the Office of Intelligence as Deputy Assistant Attorney General, then as Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security. Matt has also served in other key roles within the Justice Department, including in the Office of the Deputy Attorney General and the Office of the Attorney General, where he led the review of individuals detained at Guantanamo Bay. At each step of the way, Matt enjoyed the trust and confidence of both career lawyers and political appointees on both sides of the aisle because of his honesty, candor, and sheer intellectual firepower.

Matt's long record of distinguished service in the Department of Justice, including his leadership on critical national security issues, would be enough, standing alone, to qualify him for the position to which he has been nominated. But Matt went on from his time at DOJ to serve not only as General Counsel of the National Security Agency (NSA), but also as the Senate-confirmed Director of the National Counterterrorism Center (NCTC), where he played a critical role leading the government's efforts to protect our nation from terrorist threats by integrating and analyzing terrorism information and conducting strategic operational planning for counterterrorism activities.

Upon leaving government in 2015, Matt extended his experience into the private sector, serving as president and co-founder of IronNet Cybersecurity, a technology startup that provides software and services to protect companies and governments against advanced cyber threats. And he's since gone on to serve as the Chief Trust and Security Officer of Uber, where he leads the company's global physical security and cybersecurity teams. Just as he did in his time in government, in each of these positions, Matt earned the respect and trust of those around him, from the most junior employees he supervised to the executive leaders he worked with on a day-to-day basis.

Indeed, in all of these positions, Matt has been well known for his unflinching defense of doing the right thing and strongly protecting our nation's security under the laws and Constitution of the United States. Each of us, individually and as a group, believe that Matt's leadership is exactly what is needed to both keep our nation and its citizens safe, as well as to protect the privacy and civil liberties that we all cherish as Americans. As a senior government official, Matt repeatedly demonstrated his willingness to lean forward in protecting our nation while adhering to the rule of law, as well as his ability to make tough decisions under pressure, even when those decisions may not have been popular or politically beneficial. It was these traits, along with his genuine personality and leadership skills, repeatedly made Matt a trusted advisor and confidante to career officials and political leaders from both parties. Likewise, as a private sector leader, Matt enjoyed the confidence of business executives and investors alike, assuring them that protecting the security of their employees, customers, and partners while applying the strongest ethical standards possible would always be his number one priority.

In sum, we believe that Matt's extensive experience in both the public and private sectors makes him an excellent candidate to lead the Justice Department's National Security Division in today's critically important environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to write to you today; we look forward to answering any questions you may have.

Sincerely,

GEN (Ret) Keith Alexander  
Former Director, National Security Agency & Founding Commander, U.S. Cyber Command

Javed Ali  
Former Senior Director for Counterterrorism, National Security Council, The White House

Michael Allen  
Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Counter-Proliferation Strategy,  
National Security Council, The White House

Dmitri Alperovitch  
Former Special Advisor, Department of Defense

Charles W. Alsup  
Associate Deputy Director of National Intelligence, Office of the Director of National  
Intelligence

Michael Bahar  
Former Staff Director and General Counsel, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, United  
States House of Representatives

Stewart Baker  
Former Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department of Homeland Security

Jeremy Bash, Former Chief of Staff, Department of Defense

John B. Bellinger III  
Former Legal Adviser, Department of State

Amb. Daniel Benjamin  
Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Department of State

Peter Bergen  
Vice President, New America

Megan Brown  
Former Counsel to the Attorney General, Department of Justice

Stevan E. Bunnell  
Former General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security

Robert J. Butler  
Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber and Space Policy, Department of  
Defense

Senator Saxby Chambliss  
Former Vice Chairman, Senate Select Committee on Intelligence

Anjali Chaturvedi  
Former Chief, Organized Crime Strike Force and Assistant United States Attorney, Department of Justice

Jason Chipman  
Former Senior Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice

Frank Cilluffo  
Former Special Assistant to the President for Homeland Security, The White House

James Clapper  
Former Director of National Intelligence

David Coher  
Former Legislative Director, Rep. Stephen Horn, United States House of Representatives

Kate Connelly  
Former Deputy Chief, Criminal Division, United States Attorney's Office for the District of Columbia

Carrie Cordero  
Former Counsel to the Assistant Attorney General for National Security, Department of Justice

Col (Ret.) Christopher P. Costa  
Former Special Assistant to the President & Senior Director, National Security Council, The White House

William P. Crowell  
Former Deputy Director, National Security Agency

J. Michael Daniel  
Former Special Assistant to the President and Cybersecurity Coordinator, The White House

Brian de Vallance  
Former Assistant Secretary of Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security

Robert L. Deitz  
Former General Counsel, National Security Agency

Mary B. DeRosa  
Former Deputy Assistant and Deputy Counsel to the President and Legal Adviser to the National Security Council, The White House

April Falcon Doss  
Former Associate General Counsel for Intelligence Law, National Security Agency

Paula Doyle  
Former Associate Deputy Director for Operations Technology, Central Intelligence Agency

Timothy H. Edgar  
Former Director of Privacy and Civil Liberties, National Security Council, The White House

Brian J. Egan  
Former Legal Advisor to the National Security Council and Deputy Counsel to the President, The White House

Daniel R. Ennis  
Former Director, NSA Threat Operations Center, National Security Agency

William Evanina  
Former Director, National Counterintelligence Security Center

Karen S. Evans  
Former Assistant Secretary, Cybersecurity, Energy Security and Emergency Response, Department of Energy

Guy L. Filippelli  
Former Special Assistant to the Director, National Security Agency

Edward Fishman  
Former Member, Policy Planning Staff, Office of the Secretary of State, Department of State

Richard Fontaine  
Former Deputy Minority Staff Director, Committee on Armed Services, United States Senate

Michael Geffroy  
Former General Counsel, Select Committee on Intelligence, United States Senate

Sarah Roland Geffroy  
Former Chief Counsel, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, United States House of Representatives

Glenn S. Gerstell  
Former General Counsel, National Security Agency

Ryan Gillis, Former Director of Cybersecurity Policy and Legislative Affairs, National Security Council, The White House

Michael J. Gottlieb  
Former Associate Counsel to the President, The White House

Eric A. Greenwald  
Former Special Assistant to the President and Senior Director for Cyber Security, National Security Council, The White House

Andrew Grotto  
Former Senior Director for Cyber Policy, National Security Council, The White House

Davis Hake  
Former Director for Federal Information Technology Security, National Security Council, The White House

General (Ret.) Michael Hayden  
Former Director, Central Intelligence Agency

Aaron Hughes  
Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Cyber Policy, Department of Defense

Seamus Hughes  
Senior Counterterrorism Advisor, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs Committee, United States Senate

Joanne Isham  
Former Deputy Director, National Geospatial Intelligence Agency

Jamil N. Jaffer  
Former Associate Counsel to the President, The White House

Amy Jeffress  
Counselor to the Attorney General for National Security and International Matters, Department of Justice

Frank R. Jimenez  
Former General Counsel of the Navy, United States Navy

Clete D. Johnson  
Former Senior Adviser for Cybersecurity and Technology, Office of the Secretary, Department of Commerce

Jeh Charles Johnson  
Former Secretary of Homeland Security

Ely Kahn  
Former Director of Cybersecurity Policy, National Security Council, The White House

Geof Kahn  
Former Senior Advisor to the Chief Operating Officer, Central Intelligence Agency

Sean Kanuck  
Former National Intelligence Officer for Cyber Issues, Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Neal Kumar Katyal  
Former Acting Solicitor General, Department of Justice

Andy Keiser  
Former Senior Advisor, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, United States House of Representatives

Christopher C. Krebs  
Former Director, Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, Department of Homeland Security

David S. Kris  
Former Assistant Attorney General for National Security, Department of Justice

Paul B. Kurtz  
Former Senior Director for Cyber Security and Special Assistant to the President for Critical Infrastructure Protection, The White House

Richard H. Ledgett, Jr.  
Former Deputy Director, National Security Agency

Vice Admiral (Ret) Mike LeFever, USN  
Former Director, Strategic Operational Planning, National Counterterrorism Center

Michael Leiter  
Former Director, National Counterterrorism Center

Dr. James A. Lewis  
Former Head of U.S. Delegation, Wassenaar Arrangement Experts Group, Department of State

Rachel Carlson Lieber  
Deputy General Counsel, Central Intelligence Agency

Andy Liepman  
Former Deputy Director, National Counterterrorism Center

Jessie K. Liu  
Former United States Attorney for the District of Columbia

David Loevinger  
Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Asia, Department of the Treasury

Letitia A. Long  
Former Director, National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency

David Luckey  
Former Director of Homeland Security and Counterterrorism Advisor to the Chairman,  
Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, United States Senate

Jane H. Lute  
Former Deputy Secretary, Department of Homeland Security

John Maguire  
Former Senior Advisor, Select Committee on Intelligence, United States Senate

Dr. Michele L. Malvesti  
Former Senior Director for Combating Terrorism Strategy, National Security Council, The  
White House

Sigal Mandelker  
Former Under Secretary of the Treasury for Terrorism and Financial Intelligence, Department of  
the Treasury

Jeanette Manfra  
Former Assistant Secretary for Cybersecurity, Cyber and Infrastructure Security Agency,  
Department of Homeland Security

David A. Martin  
Former Principal Deputy General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security

Ellen McCarthy  
Former Assistant Secretary of State, Bureau of Intelligence and Research, Department of State

Cheri F. McGuire  
Former Director, National Cyber Security Division/US-CERT, Department of Homeland  
Security

Bruce W. McConnell  
Former Deputy Under Secretary for Cybersecurity, Department of Homeland Security

Mike McConnell  
Former Director of National Intelligence

Mary B. McCord  
Former Acting Assistant Attorney General for National Security, National Security Division,  
Department of Justice



Brent McIntosh  
Former Under Secretary for International Affairs, U.S. Department of the Treasury

Jenny Menna  
Former Director, Director Stakeholder Engagement and Cyber Infrastructure Resilience  
Division, Department of Homeland Security

Dr. James N. Miller  
Former Under Secretary of Defense for Policy, Department of Defense

Matthew Miller  
Former Director of the Office of Public Affairs, Department of Justice

Michael Morell  
Former Deputy Director and Acting Director, Central Intelligence Agency

Will Moschella  
Former Principal Associate Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice

Michael B. Mukasey  
Former Attorney General of the United States

Rick "Ozzie" Nelson  
Former Director, Office of Combatting Terrorism, National Security Council, The White House

James C. O'Brien  
Former Special Presidential Envoy for Hostage Affairs, Department of State  
Christopher Painter, Former Coordinator for Cyber Issues, Department of State

Farah Pandith  
Special Representative to the Muslim Communities, Department of State

Leon Panetta  
Former Secretary of Defense

Brian Parr  
Former Special Agent in Charge, New York Field Office, United States Secret Service

General (Ret) David Petraeus  
Former Director, Central Intelligence Agency

Jake Phillips  
Senior Counsel to the Deputy Attorney General, Department of Justice

John S. Pistole  
Former Deputy Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Vito T. Potenza  
Former General Counsel, National Security Agency

Benjamin A. Powell  
Former General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Kiran S. Raj  
Former Deputy General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security

Sherri Ramsay  
Former Director, NSA Threat Operations Center, National Security Agency

Nicholas Rasmussen  
Former Director, National Counterterrorism Center

Alan Charles Raul  
Former Vice Chairman, Privacy and Civil Liberties and Oversight Board

Dr. Samantha F. Ravich  
Former Deputy National Security Advisor to Vice President Cheney, The White House

Philip Reiner  
Former Senior Director for South Asia, National Security Council, The White House

Diane Rinaldo  
Former Acting Administrator, National Telecommunications and Information Administration,  
Department of Commerce

Harvey Rishikof  
Former Senior Advisor, National Counterintelligence Executive

W. Price Roe  
Former Counselor to the Secretary, Department of Homeland Security

Mike Rogers  
Former Chairman, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, United States House of  
Representatives

Paul Rosenzweig  
Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy, Department of Homeland Security

Norman T. Roule  
Former Component Chief, Directorate of Operations, Central Intelligence Agency

J. Patrick Rowan  
Assistant Attorney General for National Security, Department of Justice

Steve Ryan  
Former Deputy Director, National Threat Operations Center, NSA

Teresa H. Shea  
Former SIGINT Director, National Security Agency

Anne-Marie Slaughter  
Former Director of Policy Planning, Department of State

Cliff Sloan  
Former Special Envoy for Guantanamo Closure, Department of State

Bryan R. Smith  
Former Budget Director, Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, United States House of Representatives

Suzanne E. Spaulding  
Former Under Secretary, National Protection and Programs Directorate, Department of Homeland Security

Matthew J. Spence  
Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Middle East Policy, Department of Defense

Charles M. Steele  
Former Chief of Staff, National Security Division, Department of Justice

Michael B. Steinbach  
Former Executive Assistant Director, National Security Branch, Federal Bureau of Investigation

Megan Stifel  
Former Director for International Cyber Policy, National Security Council, The White House

Paul N. Stockton  
Former Assistant Secretary of Defense for Homeland Defense and Americas' Security Affairs, Department of Defense

Andrew Tannenbaum  
Former Deputy General Counsel, National Security Agency

Francis X. Taylor, BGen, USAF (Ret), Former Under Secretary, Office of Intelligence and Analysis, Department of Homeland Security

Vice Admiral Jan E. Tighe  
USN Retired, Former Commander, Fleet Cyber Command

Kiersten E. Todt  
Former Executive Director, Presidential Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity

Amira Valliani  
Former Advisor to the Deputy National Security Advisor for Strategic Communications,  
National Security Council, The White House

Joseph J. Vealencis  
Former Deputy Director of Legislative Affairs, Office of the Director of National Intelligence

Stephen R. Vina  
Former Chief Counsel for Homeland Security, Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
Committee, United States Senate

Rob Walker  
Major, U.S. Army (Retired)

Thomas Warrick  
Former Deputy Assistant Secretary for Counterterrorism Policy, Department of Homeland  
Security

Matthew C. Waxman  
Former Principal Deputy Director of Policy Planning, Department of State

William F. Wechsler  
Former Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Combatting  
Terrorism, Department of Defense

Joe Whitely  
Former General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security

Major General (Ret) Brett T. Williams  
Former Director of Operations, United States Cyber Command, Department of Defense

Admiral James A. Winnefeld, Jr, USN (retired)  
Former Vice Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense

Evan Wolff  
Former Senior Advisor, Department of Homeland Security

Paul Wolfowitz  
Former Deputy Secretary of Defense

Julie Meyers Wood

Former Assistant Secretary for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, Department of Homeland Security

Shaarik Zafar

Former Special Representative to Muslim Communities, Department of State

Juan C. Zarate

Former Deputy Assistant to the President and Deputy National Security Advisor for Combatting Terrorism, National Security Council, The White House

Peter R. Zeidenberg

Deputy Special Counsel, Department of Justice

Lawrence K. Zelvin

Former Director, National Cybersecurity and Communications Integration Center, Department of Homeland Security