Executive Office of the President of the United States

Office of White House Counsel

Assistant to the President and White House Counsel,
Ethan S. Yoho

Office of White House Counsel
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

As White House Counsel, I will ensure The President will have sufficient authority to respond to domestic and international challenges, but that authority must remain grounded in the U.S. Constitution, federal law, and international obligations. The Office of White House Counsel envisions a world in which the United States remains a powerful international leader because its government demonstrates consistency, legitimacy, and respect for the rule of law. The Office intends to achieve this through responsible executive action, strong legal institutions, and cooperation with domestic and international partners. Ultimately, we will leave behind a presidency that is both effective in pursuing its agenda while remaining accountable to the law.

I will primarily operate through giving direct legal advice to the President and other parties deemed necessary for legal review. Reviewing presidential directives, advising senior officials, evaluating potential litigation, and ensuring ethical compliance will remain my core responsibilities. We, as the Office of White House Counsel, will also monitor litigation, congressional responses, and policy outcomes to provide continuing legal guidance. Leaving behind an office that gives candid, legally sound advice that doesn't simply validate presidential decisions is the sought after legacy of my leadership in this position.

Upon entering the White House, the Widzer Administration in coordination with the Office of White House Counsel seeks to:

1. **Rebuild Presidential Authority Withstanding Constitutional Accountability:** A strong executive branch that ultimately respects separation of powers and judicial independence from political and otherwise confounding motives. Reviewing executive orders and emergency declarations for statutory and constitutional authority, particularly as the Administration relies on unilateral action, will remain a high priority.
2. **Reassert Immigration, Border Security, and International Refugee Law:** Ensure immigration directives comply with federal statutes, constitutional protections, and refugee law while coordinating with necessary departments and agencies.
3. **Reassure International Law, Military Operations, and National Security:** An America capable of defending its national interests while maintaining credibility under international legal obligations. Review military operations, sanctions, and executive agreements for consistency with the War Powers Resolution, applicable treaties, and the laws of armed conflict.

4. **Revise Executive Ethics, Reaffirm Accountability, and Embrace Rule of Law:** Ensure that presidential actions receive the appropriate amount of legal and judicial scrutiny. An Administration that serves the national interest instead of its political interest.
5. **Reassure Global Partners:** Review presidential decisions involving NATO, U.S.-China relations, international trade agreements, and security partnerships to ensure compliance with treaty obligations and domestic law. Advise the President on the legal consequences of international agreements and/or altering security commitments. Strengthen the legal foundations of diplomacy while preserving flexibility.