
The purpose of this block of instruction is to provide a legal issues overview of all of the work that the Center for Terrorism Law has engaged in during the past ten years of operation. This will be developed in the course of the following areas of discussion.

I. Terrorism

This section will explore and discuss the issue of defining the term “terrorism” from a variety of perspectives with emphasis on US domestic law. Discussion will also focus on the goal of terrorism, the concept of terrorism and weapons of mass destruction, State-sponsored and State-supported terrorism, Sub-State terrorism, individual terrorism, and al-Qa’eda-styled radical Islamic terrorism.

II. The War on Terror

This section will explore the concept of the “War on Terror” as a new phenomenon following the terror attacks of September 11, 2001. Discussion will include perspectives of both the Bush and Obama Administrations on the differences between “enemy combatants” and domestic Islamic terrorists that are not classified as “enemy combatants.” Discussion of the legal and policy positions of the United States from the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of government will follow.
III. Civil Liberties

This section will examine the full range of civil liberty issues to include federal prosecution, military commissions, detainee status, investigations of terror suspects, use of the military in domestic law enforcement, privacy and immigration, assassination vs. targeted killing, rendition, and other Constitutional issues of impact.

IV. Interrogation Techniques

This section will examine the concept of interrogation techniques of terror detainees. Discussion will include examination of the international law, e.g., the Torture Convention; U.S. domestic law; illegal rendition; allegations of torture; interrogation techniques; the “ticking time bomb” scenario; and the issue of indefinite detention.

V. Emerging Threats and Government Responses

This section will examine emerging threats that range from a biological pandemic to cyber attacks on the critical infrastructure. The legal issues associated with government response will include Constitutional protections on taking property, privacy, and due process.

VI. The Ethics of Religion and the War on Terror

This section will examine the role of religion and the War on Terror from a First Amendment issue and a comparative historical context. An in-depth discussion of Islam and radical Islam will demonstrate ideological and religious roots.

VII. Conclusion

Questions and answers on topics of legal and policy interest.