Understanding The U.S. Immigration System

The infrastructure of the U.S executive branch (what the President oversees) is massive with many different offices. Knowing them can help navigate a complicated machine. These agencies interact with one another but hold specific roles.



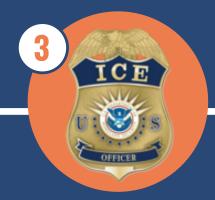


Department of Homeland Security (DHS)

- Created after 9/11
- Combined 22 different agencies into one mega agency
- (I) ICE, (II) CBP, & (III) USCIS - The Secretary of Homeland Security oversees the DHS

Department of Justice (DOJ)

- Law & Public Safety
- Executive Office for Immigration Review (EOIR) which is the entire Immigration Court system
 - Attorney General oversees





Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

- Created to manage civil immigration violations that "threaten" the "national security"
 - Track visa overstay & enforce removal orders
- Funnels contracts to private prison companies

Enforcement Removal Operations (ERO)

- Within ICE
- Identifies, apprehends and detains immigrants
 - Manages movement and supervision of immigrants





Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

- Officers at ports of entry
 - Collect data
- Confiscate personal goods, and enforces taxes and duties
- Initial contact with asylum seekers

Homelands Security Investigations (HSI)

- Intelligence arm of ICE
- -Investigates all cross border activity
 - Operates internationally - Supposedly combats terrorism





United States Citizenship Services (USCIS) - Manages the nation's immigration system

- Handle applications from visas, to green cards, to citizenship
 - EX: DACA, SIJS, marriage based and relative petitions are some examples



