

# 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.*

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## 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

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## Department of Justice (DOJ)

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

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## Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE)

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

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## Enforcement Removal Operations (ERO)

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

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## 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

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## Homeland Security Investigations (HSI)

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

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## 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



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