



**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE PRIVACY FORUM  
REMARKS OF DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL JAMES M. COLE  
NOVEMBER 17, 2014**

*Welcome, and thank you for participating in the Department of Justice's first annual Privacy Forum. I am pleased that you have joined us for what is sure to be an informative and meaningful discussion about important Department initiatives and programs, and the privacy and civil liberties protections that are rooted throughout our activities. I hope that today's forum will continue to expand the dialog and reinforce the privacy and civil liberties partnerships that exist across the Department today.*

*The Department's law enforcement mission is to ensure the fair and impartial administration of justice. Embedded in that mission are the important principles of privacy and civil liberties. They play an integral role in our everyday operations.*

*Privacy and civil liberties are key considerations that are taken into account in virtually everything we do and they play an important role in the decisions of the senior leadership of the Department. Our Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer is a part of the Office of the Deputy Attorney General, reporting to both me and to the Attorney General. She leads the Department's compliance program and is supported by the Office of Privacy and Civil Liberties. Together, the CPCLO and OPCL oversee the Department's privacy-related requirements, including reviewing Privacy Impact Assessments and System of Records Notices, and making sure that the Department complies with other privacy-related laws and information policies.*

*The Department's privacy compliance program has steadily evolved since the enactment of the Privacy Act of 1974. As demonstrated by the legal review and privacy assessments that have been conducted by our components and the development of privacy best practices and operational guidelines, the Department has always had a long-standing, firm commitment to preserving the privacy and civil liberties of the public that we serve. The Attorney General Guidelines under Executive Order 12333 and the FBI's Domestic Investigations and Operations Guide are grounded in privacy and civil liberties protections and are key examples of the importance that we place on these principles. And as our world becomes increasingly interconnected and as new technologies emerge, we continue to give meaningful consideration to privacy and civil liberties in the programs and tools that we utilize and develop in our daily activities.*

*As part of our ongoing commitment, earlier this year I issued DOJ Order 0601, the Privacy and Civil Liberties Order. The Order, which sets out the Department-wide responsibility of the CPCLO and OPCL, also highlights the importance of protecting the personally identifiable information that the Department maintains in its systems. Specifically, the Order mandates that, consistent with applicable laws, regulations, and mission needs, the Department will consider the Fair Information Practice Principles, or FIPPs, in*

*Department and component-level privacy policy development and implementation and when reviewing programs, systems, or operations that raise privacy issues or concerns. The FIPPs include the principles of: Transparency, Individual Participation, Purpose Specification, Data Minimization, Use Limitation, Data Quality and Integrity, Security, Accountability and Auditing.*

*These principles are objective, but they are also flexible in that agencies can apply the FIPPs within the context of their differing authorities and missions. They are time-tested and universally recognized best practices that form the basis of the Privacy Act of 1974 and many other federal privacy and information protection statutes.*

*In order to help ensure that the Department follows these privacy best practices, Order 0601 directed Heads of Components to designate a Senior Component Official for Privacy, or SCOP, to be responsible for managing the component's implementation of privacy policies and requirements.*

*Although the SCOPs have been empowered to raise awareness of the importance of privacy and civil liberties, it is actually important for every DOJ employee to know the legal requirements associated with protecting personally identifiable information. Furthermore, within the parameters of our mission work, we must strive to become more transparent about the way we use technology, disclose information, and design IT systems.*

*As we embark on these efforts, the one thing we need to remember is that effective law enforcement and robust privacy protections are not mutually exclusive. Protecting privacy and civil liberties is one of the missions we need to fulfill here at the Department, but it also enables us to more efficiently and effectively accomplish all of our law enforcement responsibilities to the American people. They go hand-in-hand as part of the Department's duty to be responsible stewards of the public's trust, and to ensure that the laws of the United States are fairly and effectively carried out.*

*Thank you for your participation in this important Department event and I hope you enjoy this forum.*