

Office of the General Counsel
Department of Homeland Security
Washington, D.C. 20528



**Homeland
Security**

November 16, 2018

MEMORANDUM FOR: THE SECRETARY

CC: David J. Glawe
Under Secretary for Intelligence and Analysis

FROM: John M. Mitnick
General Counsel

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SUBJECT: Overview of DHS Legal Authority to Monitor and Collect Publicly Available Social Media for Domestic Threats Related to Ideologically Motivated Violence

I. Purpose

Department of Homeland Security (DHS) components use social media for different purposes in support of their respective missions, in keeping with applicable legal restrictions and operational priorities. DHS senior leadership asked the Office of the General Counsel (OGC) what legal authorities permit DHS to access social media websites in order to conduct intelligence collection on domestic threats associated with ideologically motivated violence and to monitor them for the same.

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