March 19, 2014

PRIVACY AND CIVIL LIBERTIES OVERSIGHT BOARD

Public Hearing Regarding the

Surveillance Program Operated Pursuant to

Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence

Surveillance Act

March 19, 2014

The public hearing was held at the Renaissance Mayflower Hotel, 1127 Connecticut Avenue NW, Washington, D.C. 20036 commencing at 9:00 a.m.

Reported by: Lynne Livingston

BOARD MEMBERS 2 3 David Medine, Chairman Rachel Brand 4 Patricia Wald 6 James Dempsey 7 Elizabeth Collins Cook PANEL I Government Perspective on Section 702 Foreign 10 11 Intelligence Surveillance Act 12 13 James A. Baker, General Counsel, Federal Bureau of 14 Investigations 15 Rajesh De, General Counsel, National Security 16 Agency 17 Robert Litt, General Counsel, Office of the Director of National Intelligence 18 19 Brad Wiegmann, Deputy Assistant Attorney General, 20 National Security Division, Department of Justice 21 22

1	PANEL II
2	Legal Issues with 702
3	Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act
4	Laura Donohue, Professor of Law, Georgetown
5	University Law School
6	Jameel Jaffer, Deputy Legal Director, American
7	Civil Liberties Union
8	Julian Ku, Professor of Law, Hofstra University
9	Rachel Levinson-Waldman, Counsel, Liberty and
10	National Security Program, Brennan Center for
11	Justice
12	
13	PANEL III
14	Transnational and Policy Issues
15	John Bellinger, Partner, Arnold and Porter
16	Dean C. Garfield, President and CEO, Information
17	Technology Industry Council
18	Laura Pitter, Senior National Security Researcher,
19	Human Rights Watch
20	Ulrich Sieber, Director, Max Planck Institute for
21	Foreign and International Criminal Law, Germany
22	Christopher Wolf, Partner, Hogan Lovells

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1	PROCEEDINGS	
2	MR. MEDINE: Good morning. Welcome to	
3	the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board's	
4	hearing on the 702 Program.	
5	I'm David Medine, PCLOB's chairman.	
6	It's 9:05 a.m. on March 19th, 2014 and we are in	
7	the grand ballroom of the Mayflower Hotel located	
8	at 1127 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, D.C.	
9	This hearing was announced in the	
10	Federal Register on March 10th, 2014. As	
11	chairman, I will be the presiding officer.	
12	All five Board members are present and	
13	there is a quorum. The Board members are Rachel	
14	Brand, Elisebeth Collins Cook, James Dempsey, and	
15	Patricia Wald.	
16	I will now call the hearing to order.	
17	All in favor of opening the hearing please say	
18	aye.	
19	(Aye)	
20	MR. MEDINE: Upon receiving unanimous	
21	consent to proceed, we will now proceed.	
22	I want to thank the many panelists who	

- will be participating in today's hearing for
- 2 agreeing to share their views with the Board.
- I also wanted to thank the Board's
- 4 staff, Sharon Bradford Franklin, Sue Reingold,
- 5 Peter Winn, Diane Janosek, Brian Frazelle, and
- 6 Simone Awang for their efforts in making this
- 7 event possible.
- 8 Last year PCLOB agreed to provide the
- 9 President and Congress a public report on two
- 10 federal counterterrorism programs, the Section 215
- program under the USA PATRIOT Act and the 702
- 12 program under the FISA Amendments Act. The report
- on the 215 program was issued on January 23rd,
- 14 2014.
- Our focus today will be on the Section
- 16 702 program under the FISA Amendments Act. The
- purpose of this hearing is to foster a public
- discussion of legal, constitutional, and policy
- issues relating to this program.
- A few ground rules for today, we expect
- that the discussion will be based on unclassified
- or declassified information, however some of the

- discussion will inevitably touch on leaked
- 2 classified documents or media reports of
- 3 classified information.
- 4 In order to promote a robust discussion
- 5 speakers may choose to reference these documents
- or information, but they should keep in mind that
- <sup>7</sup> in some cases they remain classified. Therefore,
- 8 while discussing them, neither the Board members
- 9 nor speakers in a position to do so will confirm
- the validity of the documents or information.
- There will be three panels today. The
- 12 first will consist of government officials whose
- agencies have varying degrees of responsibility
- 14 for the surveillance programs that will be the
- subject of our report.
- The second panel with consist of
- 17 academics and advocates who will focus on legal
- issues, including statutory and constitutional
- 19 issues. After the first two panels we will be
- 20 taking a lunch break.
- The final panel will consist of a mix
- of academics, advocates, and private sector

- 1 representatives and will focus on transnational
- <sup>2</sup> and policy issues.
- Board members will each pose questions
- 4 during each panel with questions in rounds for
- 5 each Board member. Panelists are urged to keep
- their responses brief and to permit the greatest
- 7 exchange of views.
- 8 The program is being recorded and a
- 9 transcript will be posted on PCLOB.gov. Written
- 10 comments from members of the public are welcome
- and may be submitted online at regulations.gov or
- by mail until March 28th.
- Today's hearing will focus on the
- 14 government's collection of foreign intelligence
- 15 information from electronic communication service
- 16 providers under court supervision pursuant to
- 17 Section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence
- 18 Surveillance Act.
- 19 Information is obtained with FISA court
- approval based on written directives from the
- 21 Attorney General and the Director of National
- 22 Intelligence to acquire foreign intelligence

- information. This law permits the government to
- 2 target non-U.S. persons, someone who is not a
- 3 citizen or a permanent resident alien, located
- 4 outside the United States for foreign intelligence
- 5 purposes without obtaining a specific warrant for
- 6 each target.
- We will now turn to our first panel,
- 8 and I understand that Bob Litt will be making an
- 9 opening statement for the panel.
- MR. LITT: Thank you, and thank you for
- the opportunity to appear on behalf of the whole
- group here and talk about Section 702.
- I would like to give a brief overview
- of Section 702 to set the stage, and we'll be glad
- to fill out some of the points I make here in
- 16 response to questions.
- Section 702, as you noted, enables us
- 18 to collect intelligence against foreign targets
- who are outside of the United States while
- 20 robustly protecting privacy rights.
- Under Section 702 the FISA court
- 22 approves annual certifications submitted by the

- 1 Attorney General and the Director of National
- 2 Intelligence that identify categories of foreign
- 3 intelligence that may be collected. We then
- 4 target selectors such as telephone numbers or
- 5 email addresses that will produce foreign
- 6 intelligence falling within the scope of the
- 7 certifications.
- 8 The FISA court also has to review and
- 9 approve targeting and minimization procedures.
- 10 The targeting procedures ensure that we target
- only non-U.S. persons who are reasonably believed
- to be outside of the United States, that we do not
- intentionally intercept totally domestic
- communications, and that we do not target any
- person outside of the United States as a
- subterfuge to actually target someone inside the
- 17 U.S.
- 18 The minimization procedures ensure that
- 19 consistent with foreign intelligence needs, we
- 20 minimize the acquisition and retention of
- 21 non-public information available about U.S.
- 22 persons and that we prohibit the dissemination of

- 1 such information.
- I want to make a couple of important
- overview points about Section 702. First, there
- 4 is either a misconception or a mischaracterization
- commonly repeated that Section 702 is a form of
- 6 bulk collection. It is not bulk collection. It
- <sup>7</sup> is targeted collection based on selectors such as
- 8 telephone numbers or email addresses where there's
- 9 reason to believe that the selector is relevant to
- 10 a foreign intelligence purpose.
- I just want to repeat that Section 702
- is not a bulk collection program.
- Second, from a legal point of view
- 14 persons who are not U.S. persons and who are
- outside of the United States do not have rights
- under the Fourth Amendment and so the Constitution
- doesn't require individualized warrants to target
- 18 them.
- In fact, the type of intelligence that
- is covered by Section 702 targeting foreigners
- outside of the United States has historically been
- viewed as part of the President's inherent

- 1 constitutional authority and I'm not aware of any
- other country that brings this kind of collection
- 3 under this sort of judicial process.
- 4 Third, collection under 702 is subject
- 5 to extensive oversight by all three branches of
- 6 government. We can explain the oversight in more
- <sup>7</sup> detail later, but it includes extensive review of
- 8 collection activities under Section 702 by
- 9 inspectors general, by the Department of Justice,
- 10 and the Office of the Director of National
- 11 Intelligence. It includes reporting of all
- compliance incidents to the Foreign Intelligence
- 13 Surveillance Court, and it includes periodic
- 14 reports both to Congress and to the court.
- 15 As the documents that we've
- declassified and released make clear, the Foreign
- 17 Intelligence Surveillance Court carefully
- 18 scrutinizes our activities under this section.
- 19 And while there have been a number of compliance
- incidents over the years, the court has never
- 21 found any intentional efforts to violate the
- requirements of Section 702.

- Fourth, the fact that the
- 2 communications of U.S. persons may be incidentally
- 3 intercepted when we target valid foreign
- 4 intelligence targets is neither unexpected nor
- 5 unique to Section 702 collection.
- 6 Both the statute itself with its
- 7 required minimization procedures and the
- 8 legislative history make completely clear that
- 9 Congress knew full well when it passed Section 702
- that incidental collection of communications of
- U.S. persons would occur when they're in
- 12 communication with valid foreign targets.
- And it's important to note that this
- 14 kind of incidental collection occurs all the time
- in other contexts. When we conduct a criminal
- wiretap or a wiretap pursuant to Title I of FISA
- we will likely intercept communications of persons
- who are not targets. When we seize someone's
- 19 computer we may find communications with persons
- who are not targets.
- The minimization rules under Section
- 702 which the FISA court approves is consistent

- with both the statute and the Fourth Amendment are
- designed to protect the privacy of persons whose
- 3 communications are incidentally collected, while
- 4 still allowing the use of information that is
- 5 lawfully collected for valid foreign intelligence
- 6 and law enforcement purposes.
- Finally, I want to close by just
- 8 emphasizing that Section 702 is one of the most
- <sup>9</sup> valuable collection tools that we have. Many of
- the specific achievements of Section 702 have to
- 11 remain classified so that we aren't revealing
- 12 exactly who we're targeting and what we're
- 13 collecting. But it is one of our most important
- sources of information, not only about terrorism
- but about a wide variety of other threats to our
- 16 nation.
- And unless one of my colleagues has
- something to add, I think we're ready to address
- 19 your questions.
- MR. MEDINE: Great, thank you very much
- 21 for that statement.
- I wanted to start off and pick up with

- 1 your discussion of incidental collection, and
- again just to make clear that under this program,
- even though the target may be a non-U.S. person
- 4 there will be times when the conversations, either
- by email or telephone, the person on the other end
- 6 will be a U.S. person.
- 7 And so my question to the panel is
- 8 whether because you're gathering communications of
- 9 U.S. persons if that implicates Fourth Amendment
- 10 concerns? And if so, do you believe there's a
- 11 foreign intelligence exception to the Fourth
- 12 Amendment? And if not, how is warrantless
- collection of information of U.S. persons
- 14 permissible?
- 15 And then to follow up on Mr. Litt's
- comment analogizing this to a traditional wiretap,
- 17 is there a distinction here where on a traditional
- wiretap the court has, there's been a judicial
- determination with particularity of a particular
- collection, whereas here there's only broad
- 21 programmatic court approval and not approval of
- the specific collection?

- So I guess broadly speaking, can you
- 2 address the Fourth Amendment concerns regarding
- 3 incidental collection?
- 4 MR. WIEGMANN: Sure, I'll take that.
- 5 So this is, as Bob said, collection that is
- 6 targeting non-U.S. persons overseas who don't
- <sup>7</sup> enjoy Fourth Amendment rights under controlling
- 8 Supreme Court precedent. So that affects the
- 9 Fourth Amendment analysis.
- That's not to say that U.S. persons
- whose information is or whose communications are
- collected incidentally doesn't trigger a Fourth
- 13 Amendment review. It does. Those people still
- 14 have Fourth Amendment rights, but what the courts
- 15 have said is that, what the FISA court has said is
- that the minimization procedures that are in place
- 17 render that collection reasonable from a Fourth
- 18 Amendment perspective.
- We think there's an exception to the
- 20 warrant requirement. Before FISA was enacted in
- the 1970s a number of courts held in a number of
- 22 different circuits that there is a foreign

- intelligence exception to the warrant requirement
- 2 under the Fourth Amendment, in light of the
- 3 special needs of the government to collect foreign
- 4 intelligence, weighed against the privacy
- 5 interests of U.S. persons concluded that you don't
- 6 need a warrant when you're engaged in foreign
- 7 intelligence collection.
- 8 So then the only remaining question is,
- 9 is it reasonable under the Fourth Amendment to
- collect information on U.S. persons incidentally
- when you're targeting non-U.S. persons. And what
- 12 the FISA court has held is that it is reasonable
- in light of the minimization targeting procedures
- that we have in place. So I don't know if that
- answers your question, but.
- So the way you look at it is the
- warrant requirements not applicable to foreign
- intelligence collection still have a
- 19 reasonableness requirement with respect to
- incidentally collected U.S. persons, and that in
- 21 fact, it is reasonable in light of the procedures
- that we have that are designed to ensure that we

- are targeting only non-U.S. persons.
- MR. MEDINE: And could you address why
- the minimization procedures make it a reasonable
- 4 form of collection under the Fourth Amendment?
- MR. WIEGMANN: Yes, so the minimization
- 6 procedures address, and the targeting procedures
- <sup>7</sup> address the acquisition, retention, and
- 8 dissemination of U.S. person information.
- And so those procedures all are
- designed to protect those U.S. persons whose
- information might be incidentally collected.
- So for example, you can only
- disseminate information about a U.S. person if it
- 14 is foreign intelligence, or necessary to
- understand foreign intelligence, or is evidence of
- 16 a crime.
- You have retention rules. I believe in
- some cases, for NSA for example, you have a five
- 19 year retention limit on how long the information
- 20 can be retained. And so these are procedures that
- the courts have found protect U.S. privacy and
- 22 make the collection reasonable for Fourth

- 1 Amendment purposes.
- MR. MEDINE: And under the minimization
- 3 procedures I understand that the agency, the NSA,
- 4 FBI, the CIA have their own minimization
- 5 procedures and they're not the same with each
- 6 other?
- 7 MR. WIEGMANN: That's right.
- 8 MR. MEDINE: Can you address why that
- 9 shouldn't be a concern that this information is
- 10 not being subjected to the same minimization
- 11 standards?
- MR. WIEGMANN: So each of them have
- their own minimization procedures based on their
- unique mission, and the court reviews each of
- those for CIA, FBI, NSA, and it's found them all
- reasonable for each different agency. They're
- 17 slightly different based on the operational needs,
- but they're similar.
- MR. MEDINE: Would it make more sense
- then if the same set of minimization procedures
- 21 apply across the board for this kind of
- 22 information?

- MR. WIEGMANN: I don't think. Again,
- just to contrast, for example, FBI and NSA that
- 3 are using information in different ways. The FBI
- 4 has a little more latitude with respect to U.S.
- 5 person information in terms of criminal activity
- 6 and evidence of a crime than NSA, which doesn't
- <sup>7</sup> have that law enforcement mission. So I think it
- 8 is important to have some differences between the
- 9 agencies in terms of how they handle the
- 10 information.
- MR. MEDINE: And is it the practice
- that all information that's collected under 702 is
- 13 subject to the minimization procedures?
- Some questions I think have been raised
- in some of the comments that were submitted as to
- whether address books or other information would
- be considered communications that would be subject
- to minimization, or is it the approach that all
- information collected under 702 is subject to
- 20 minimization?
- MR. WIEGMANN: All U.S. person
- information is subject to minimization procedures.

- 1 MR. MEDINE: I think my time is up.
- MS. BRAND: First of all, thanks to all
- of you for being here this morning. We appreciate
- 4 your taking the time and making yourselves
- <sup>5</sup> available.
- I want to continue on the Fourth
- 7 Amendment discussion. Could one of you explain
- 8 the process both inside the executive branch and
- <sup>9</sup> then with the court of conducting the Fourth
- 10 Amendment analysis and seeking the court's
- 11 approval of the Fourth Amendment analysis and what
- 12 kinds of opinions on the Fourth Amendment you've
- had from the court, to the extent that you can
- 14 talk about it. Help us to understand how that
- works.
- MR. WIEGMANN: So, you know, the FISA
- 17 court operates a little bit differently than a
- 18 regular court in the sense that it's ex parte,
- but. So that means only the government is there.
- There's not a party on the other side.
- But other than that, we are briefing
- the legal issues in much the same way as we would

- in a regular proceeding where there is a party on
- the other side. So we have an obligation to
- 3 persuade the court that the collection under 702
- 4 is lawful, that it complies with the Fourth
- 5 Amendment, and as I just explained to the chair,
- 6 that minimization procedures comply with the
- 7 Fourth Amendment.
- 8 So we would brief that issue explaining
- <sup>9</sup> the Fourth Amendment procedures, and the court
- 10 issues opinions and has issued opinions going
- through the Fourth Amendment analysis and finding
- that 702 collection, including the minimization
- targeting procedures meets the Fourth Amendment
- 14 standards. So it's a full-up kind of regular
- 15 legal briefing on that.
- MR. LITT: And if I could just add
- something to that, it is typical in matters that
- involve the collection of evidence for these
- 19 proceedings to be conducted ex parte. Wiretap or
- search warrant applications are also all done ex
- 21 parte, even if they happen to present significant
- legal issues. So this is nothing novel in terms

- of the approach that's taken there.
- MR. DE: And if I could have one point.
- 3 So in addition to what Brad was articulating, the
- 4 court reviews this at least annually, the Fourth
- 5 Amendment analysis.
- As you all know, the 702 process
- 7 requires annual certification. As part of that
- 8 certification process every year the minimization
- 9 and targeting procedures for the various agencies
- are submitted to the FISC, which by statute has to
- 11 conduct a Fourth Amendment analysis on those
- 12 procedures as part of that annual review process.
- MS. BRAND: So the Fourth Amendment
- analysis is once a year of the program overall?
- MR. DE: Well, the court has consistent
- jurisdiction over the program all year. The point
- 17 I was making is that as part of the annual
- 18 certification process, by statute the court is
- 19 required to do a Fourth Amendment analysis of the
- annual, of the procedures that are submitted
- annually.
- MR. BAKER: It gets evaluated at least

- 1 once a year.
- MS. BRAND: Can you elaborate on that?
- 3 What would there be in addition to that once a
- 4 year analysis?
- 5 MR. DE: There could be a variety of
- factors. There could be a need to change
- 7 procedures in the year, so that would prompt
- 8 another analysis. I don't believe we've done that
- 9 but that could be one circumstance.
- There could be a variety of compliance
- 11 matters that raise particular concerns to the
- 12 court, in which case the court may want to do a
- 13 review off-cycle.
- So I think we wouldn't presume and say
- it only had to be once a year, but at a minimum by
- statute it needs to be once a year.
- MS. BRAND: Okay. Bob, you talked
- about 702 not being bulk collection. I'd like to
- delve into that a little bit more, it's not bulk
- 20 collection. You talked about selectors. We need
- 21 to elaborate on that a little bit, I think. What
- is it? It's not bulk you say, but what is it?

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MR. LITT: Sure. Well, I think it's
    probably helpful to talk about what bulk
3
    collection is first of all.
4
              And if you look at the President's
5
    policy directive there's a definition. I don't
6
    have it in front of me, but it's essentially bulk
7
    collection is collection of communications without
    relying on some sort of discriminant to ensure
    that you're targeting particular collection.
10
              It's sort of viewed sort of more
11
    informally, it's getting a whole bunch of
12
    communications, hanging onto them and then
13
    figuring out later what you want.
              This is not that. This is a situation
14
15
    where we figure out what we want and we get that
16
    specifically. And so that's why it is targeted
17
    collection rather than bulk collection. Is that
18
    helpful?
              MS. BRAND: But I'd like to get a
20
    little bit more into what is it that you're
21
    getting. So you have a selector, I mean.
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MR. LITT: Sure. So Raj probably can

- talk to this a little better than I can.
- MR. DE: So if I could, I'd step back
- 3 and just talk about the different types of
- 4 collection under Section 702, which I think is a
- 5 necessary predicate to understand how collection
- 6 occurs.
- 7 So there's two types of collection
- 8 under Section 702. Both are targeted, as Bob was
- 9 saying, which means they are both selector-based,
- and I'll get into some more detail about what that
- means. Selectors are things like phone numbers
- 12 and email addresses.
- Both are affected by compulsory legal
- 14 process, both types are conducted with the
- 15 assistance of electronic communication service
- providers, and both types of collection under 702
- 17 are subject to the same statutory standards, so
- just as a predicate.
- The first type is what's now been come
- to be known as PRISM collection, so just using
- that shorthand for a moment. And under this type
- of collection, communications to or from specific

- 1 selectors, again, things like phone numbers or
- emails, are provided with the assistance of ISPs
- 3 pursuant to directives.
- 4 The second type of collection is the
- 5 shorthand referred to as upstream collection.
- 6 Upstream collection refers to collection from the,
- <sup>7</sup> for lack of a better phrase, Internet backbone
- 8 rather than Internet service providers.
- 9 It is also however selector-based, i.e.
- 10 based on particular phone numbers or emails,
- things like phone numbers or emails. This is
- 12 collection to, from, or about selectors, the same
- 13 selectors that are used in PRISM selection. This
- is not collection based on key words, for example.
- This type of collection upstream fills
- 16 a particular gap of allowing us to collect
- 17 communications that are not available under PRISM
- 18 collection.
- But given the unique nature of upstream
- 20 collection there are different minimization
- 21 procedures that apply, to get to the chair's
- <sup>22</sup> question earlier.

- 1 The reason procedures aren't always the
- same for different types of collection, as Brad
- 3 articulated, is that there are both different
- 4 mission interests and different privacy interests
- 5 at stake.
- 6 MS. BRAND: I see my time is up, so.
- 7 MS. COLLINS COOK: Thank you for coming
- 8 here this morning. We really appreciate your time
- 9 on this and happy to be a part of this dialogue
- 10 here.
- I wanted to follow up on a couple of
- 12 points that have already been raised, but first,
- we've talked about the Fourth Amendment
- 14 implications of the collection. We've also talked
- about the fact that, or it is known that the
- information that's collected can subsequently be
- 17 queried.
- Do you consider that subsequent query a
- search for the purposes of the Fourth Amendment?
- 20 And if not, why not?
- MR. WIEGMANN: No, I would say that the
- 22 search occurs at the time that the collection

- occurs. So when the information, as Raj just
- 2 explained, from a particular selector is acquired
- 3 by NSA, then that's the time at which the search
- 4 occurs.
- Once you've lawfully collected that
- 6 information, subsequently querying that
- <sup>7</sup> information isn't a search under the Fourth
- 8 Amendment, it's information already in the
- 9 government's custody. And so I don't think there
- 10 are any other contexts really in general in which
- 11 a warrant is required to search information
- 12 already in your custody.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: Following up on
- 14 that, I think some have suggested that whether as
- a matter of Fourth Amendment necessity or as a
- policy, as a matter of policy that you should seek
- court approval before doing a query of a U.S.
- 18 person identifier.
- 19 Can you talk a little bit about what
- the operational impact of such a requirement might
- <sup>21</sup> be?
- MR. WIEGMANN: Sure, and this is

- 1 something I guess some of my colleagues could talk
- 2 about the operational impact. But as I said, in
- general with other types of collection, whether
- 4 it's collection under Title I of FISA, which is
- 5 your regular collection under which you've gone to
- 6 the FISA court and already gotten approval to
- <sup>7</sup> target a particular agent of a foreign power in
- 8 the United States, or moving over to the criminal
- 9 side if it's information collected under the
- Wiretap Act, commonly known as Title III, under
- which you're conducting surveillance, let's say of
- 12 an organized crime figure or in a drug case of an
- individual, in all of these contexts we collect
- 14 information.
- We don't, once we've collected it,
- we've gotten the necessary court approvals to
- obtain the information, we don't then have to go
- 18 back to court to query the same information that
- we've already collected lawfully a second time to
- say is it okay to look at it. We've already
- 21 gotten the conclusion that it's legal to collect
- <sup>22</sup> it.

- 1 And if you have to go back to court
- every time you look at the information in your
- 3 custody you can imagine that that would be quite
- 4 burdensome and difficult, to have to go back every
- 5 time to look at information that's already in your
- 6 custody. But I can let the FBI and NSA address it
- 7 a little bit.
- MR. DE: If I could add a couple of
- 9 points and then I'll turn it to my colleague from
- 10 the bureau.
- Just one basic point, we've been
- 12 talking about U.S. person queries and I just
- 13 articulated two types of collection. Just to
- 14 clarify, U.S. person queries are not allowed under
- 15 what I described as upstream collection. So as I
- articulated, there may be different reasons to
- have tailored procedures, minimization procedures
- 18 for different types of collections. So such
- 19 queries are not allowed for upstream.
- Adding to Brad's point about lawfully
- 21 collected information, so once information is
- 22 collected pursuant to 702, the government can and

- often will review what it needs to in that
- <sup>2</sup> information.
- Querying that lawfully collected
- 4 information, one way to think about that is a way
- to more efficiently review that which the
- 6 government already has in its possession and can
- 7 review all of.
- And so to get to your question about
- 9 policy limits on querying that data, one also
- 10 needs to understand that that information is at
- the government's disposal to review in the first
- instance, and querying it is just a way to
- 13 organize it.
- 14 Secondly -- thirdly, if I could add
- there are standards in place for querying that
- information, at least for NSA. Such a query, and
- we're talking about PRISM collection, must be
- 18 reasonably likely to return foreign intelligence
- 19 information.
- 20 And then finally, in order to
- 21 disseminate any U.S. person information that may
- result from such a query it has to be necessary to

- 1 understand the foreign intelligence or evidence of
- <sup>2</sup> a crime is apparent from our publicly available
- 3 procedures.
- But on the operational element, let me
- 5 turn that to Jim.
- 6 MR. BAKER: So just at a high level I
- 7 think let me make a couple of comments. So first
- 8 I think you have to think about the fact that
- 9 you're creating a new and special category of
- information, as Brad was saying, right. So this
- would be information that had already been
- 12 acquired pursuant to lawful process.
- We normally will query that. We'll
- 14 look through that. When something comes in, we'll
- 15 look through our collected materials to try to
- 16 find -- a threat comes in, let's say for example.
- We look at our collected materials, we try to
- 18 figure out what we have, and then, you know, move
- 19 forward as expeditiously as possible.
- So you would be creating a new category
- of information that sort of would be off-limits
- from the normal type of collection that we do.

- 1 And I don't pretend to fully understand all the
- 2 implications that that would have.
- But a couple that come to mind, first
- 4 of all, obviously would be delay. So you would
- 5 have some additional process that you would have
- to go through, and I'm sure there would be some
- 7 kind of emergency carve out and so on, but you'd
- 8 have to think about and factor in the reality that
- 9 you would be introducing delay into the system.
- You would also then as a result
- 11 potentially create a gap. There are several types
- of gaps, I guess. But you would have, there would
- be a disinclination for people, because either
- they don't have the facts, or it's just too hard
- or whatever, to actually go and pursue that extra
- pot of information.
- So there might be some type of
- connection between what we can look at normally,
- this material, and then other types of material.
- 20 And having that type of gap might, you know,
- 21 actually create a blind spot for us in terms of
- 22 intelligence collection.

- 1 You'd also have to think about, I
- think, the technical complexity of what it is that
- you're suggesting. So this is going to have to be
- 4 segregated in some way, treated differently. And
- 5 we'd just have to think about that. That could
- 6 lead to, you know, training issues, technical
- 7 costs, things like that.
- 8 So it's, you just have to actually do
- 9 it in a way that would be different than from
- other types of data that we handle, so that's sort
- of at a high level some of the things that come to
- 12 mind.
- MR. LITT: Beth, can I add one brief
- point to this which is that over the last decade,
- decade and a half, there have been a number of
- commissions that have been set up to investigate
- after a variety of terrorism incidents, 9/11, Fort
- 18 Hood, the underwear bomber and so on.
- 19 Consistently every one of those commissions has
- found that we need to eliminate barriers to making
- use of the information that's lawfully in our
- 22 possession in order to better protect the nation.

- 1 And this, requiring some kind of
- 2 additional process before we can guery this
- 3 information runs directly contrary to the
- 4 recommendations of all those commissions.
- 5 MS. COLLINS COOK: Thank you. I see
- 6 that my time is up.
- 7 MR. MEDINE: By the way, I should say
- 8 in the excitement of getting into the questioning
- <sup>9</sup> I never had actually a chance to introduce the
- 10 panelists. And so I just wanted for the benefit
- of the audience, you're familiar to us, but for
- 12 the benefit of the audience we have Jim Baker,
- who's the General Counsel of the FBI, Raj De,
- 14 who's the General Counsel at NSA, Bob Litt is the
- 15 General Counsel at the Director of National
- 16 Intelligence, and Brad Wiegmann, who is the Deputy
- 17 Assistant Attorney General at the National
- 18 Security Division of the Justice Department.
- 19 Again, thank you all for being here.
- MR. DEMPSEY: Thanks, and thanks to the
- witnesses for being here. They are very
- well-known to us. I think everybody should

- 1 realize that we've now spent many, many days with
- these gentlemen and with many, many of their
- 3 colleagues at all their agencies going through
- 4 this information, and delving deeply into this.
- 5 And there's been a huge amount of
- 6 dedication of time on the part of the agencies to
- 7 make sure that we have everything that we ask for
- 8 and to make sure that all of our questions are
- 9 answered. And so, you know, all the Board members
- 10 really appreciate the amount of time that you've
- dedicated to talking with us.
- 12 And I think it is very important here
- to be one hundred percent clear, and I think there
- has been a lot of misunderstanding about the 702
- program, and I think I do see issues with the
- program and things we're talking about, but I
- think it's very important to narrow the subjects
- of controversy, or discussion, or concern.
- 19 And I'm afraid that Raj may have partly
- reinserted a problem here when you said that U.S.
- 21 person selectors were not used for upstream
- collection, or for upstream searches they're not

- 1 used at all, period, at the collection stage.
- You were saying that U.S. person
- 3 identifiers or selectors are not used to search
- 4 the acquired database of communications that were
- 5 otherwise acquired on a particularized basis under
- 6 the upstream program, correct?
- 7 MR. DE: Correct. I definitely would
- 8 prefer not to introduce more ambiguities. Let me
- 9 be absolutely clear, Section 702 collection of any
- 10 flavor, upstream or PRISM, is only targeting
- 11 non-U.S. persons reasonably believed to be located
- 12 abroad.
- The topic I was discussing was, is in
- 14 the realm of that lawfully collected targets
- information, once it's in the government's
- 16 possession a secondary issue arises as to how one
- can search through that data. And the issue that
- we were discussing was whether those searches can
- be conducted using U.S. person identifiers within
- that lawfully data. And the answer to that
- question is no with respect to upstream
- 22 collection.

- 1 MR. DEMPSEY: And here when you're
- 2 talking about search and collect and acquire, all
- of those terms you're using to mean in a
- 4 colloquial sense when the government collects,
- 5 obtains, puts into its database, acquires, you're
- 6 not parsing those words for 702 purposes. There's
- 7 not a distinction between the search, the
- 8 collection, the acquisition, right? It's all,
- 9 you're using those things all that refer to the
- 10 same activity.
- MR. DE: There's no parsing between
- 12 acquisition or collection.
- So there are some theories out there
- 14 that when the government receives the data it
- doesn't count as collection or acquisition. That
- is incorrect. Acquisition and collection for
- these purposes are the same thing.
- 18 But the term search is a different
- 19 term. Search, as we were just discussing, means
- searching information that has already been
- lawfully acquired or collected.
- MR. DEMPSEY: Although the first --

- okay, so now we have two meanings of search. It's
- 2 so hard to be clear on this. Brad was explaining
- a search occurs when you first collect or acquire.
- 4 That is the Fourth Amendment search.
- 5 MR. DE: I think he was speaking to the
- 6 use of the term in the Fourth Amendment, not the
- you use of the term for purposes of this.
- MR. DEMPSEY: And then querying, then
- 9 there's a second use of search meaning query. So
- you query your database?
- MR. DE: Correct.
- MR. LITT: That's the term that we
- typically use rather than search in that context.
- MR. DEMPSEY: Right. In that case a
- query is not a search for Fourth Amendment
- purposes.
- MR. LITT: Right.
- 18 MR. DEMPSEY: Briefly talk a little bit
- about this 51 percent theory. So persons
- reasonably believed to be outside the United
- 21 States, and there's been some talk about, well, so
- there may have been some slide somewhere, I don't

- 1 know where this came from, but some notion that,
- oh, if it's a 51 percent likelihood, therefore 49
- 3 percent of the time we might be wrong, that the
- 4 person's not outside the United States and that's
- 5 permitted under 702. Can you comment on that.
- 6 MR. DE: Sure. So I think the bigger
- 7 picture question that that gets to how a
- 8 determination is made for purposes of the statute
- 9 that you are in fact targeting a non-U.S. person
- 10 reasonably believed to be located abroad.
- So as Bob articulated, and I'm sorry
- 12 for repeating this but just for clarity, the
- 13 statute does not allow us to target U.S. persons,
- 14 it does not allow the government to target anybody
- within the U.S., it does not allow for reverse
- targeting, it does not allow for the intentional
- 17 collection of wholly domestic communications.
- 18 So as to how we establish a reasonable
- belief that the target is in fact a non-U.S.
- person reasonably believed to be located abroad,
- there is no 51 percent rule that if you are 51
- 22 percent sure it is a non-U.S. person located

- 1 abroad that is sufficient. That is not the rule,
- and I don't honestly know where that misconception
- 3 has come from.
- 4 The foreignness determination, which is
- 5 shorthand for referring to the determination that
- it is a non-U.S. person reasonably located to be
- <sup>7</sup> abroad, is based on a totality of the
- 8 circumstances.
- 9 So what does that mean? That means
- 10 that an analyst must take into account all
- 11 available information. It means that an analyst
- 12 cannot ignore any contrary information to suggest
- that that is not the correct status of the person.
- 14 And it also means naturally that any such
- determination is very fact-specific to the
- 16 particular facts at hand.
- I did a little checking and it turns
- out in our internal training materials, at least
- 19 at NSA, we actually ask our analysts a question
- along the lines of, if you have four pieces of
- 21 information that suggests a person is abroad and
- two pieces of information that suggests a person

- is domestic, given that the score is four to two
- is that sufficient to establish foreignness?
- And the correct answer to that is, no,
- 4 it is not sufficient because it is not a majority
- 5 test. It is a totality of the circumstances test.
- One must take into account the strength,
- 7 credibility, and import of all relevant
- 8 information.
- 9 But just to add on to that, to your
- 10 bigger point about confidence in that
- determination, analysts have an affirmative
- obligation to periodically revisit the foreignness
- determination. So it is not a once and done
- 14 system.
- Moreover, targeting determinations must
- be documented ex ante before any collection
- occurs. That documentation is reviewed, every
- determination is reviewed in 60 day increments by
- 19 the Department of Justice and the Office of the
- 20 Director of National Intelligence to determine if
- they agree with that determination.
- 22 And then finally, the targeting

- 1 procedures, as we mentioned, which account for a
- lot of this are reviewed annually by the Foreign
- 3 Intelligence Surveillance Court and approved to be
- 4 consistent with the Fourth Amendment and the
- 5 statute obviously.
- 6 MR. WIEGMANN: And if I could just add
- from the DOJ perspective, as Raj said, we reviewed
- 8 all of those foreignness determinations and we
- 9 found an error rate of less than .1 percent
- 10 basically. So that equates to essentially less
- than one in a thousand cases in which we're
- 12 finding that NSA is making erroneous foreignness
- 13 determinations.
- MR. MEDINE: Judge Wald.
- MS. WALD: Thank you again. I think
- that the NSA has said that in some of its
- information that if information about U.S. persons
- is collected incidentally to a 702 search that was
- targeted on a non-U.S. person and the incidental
- information about U.S. persons is found not to
- have any foreign intelligence value it will be,
- <sup>22</sup> quote, purged.

- 1 Can you explain exactly what purging
- 2 means? Does that mean that it can subsequently
- not be used at all, or it can be subsequently used
- 4 or retained for some purposes? And finally, at
- 5 what point and by whom would this decision of
- 6 non-intelligence value be made? There's a lot of
- <sup>7</sup> sub-questions.
- MR. DE: Sure. Well, let me step back
- 9 for a moment. If the information is determined to
- 10 not have --
- MS. WALD: Could you just speak a tiny
- 12 bit louder because I'm at the tail-end of this
- 13 table.
- MR. DE: Certainly. If information is
- determined to not have foreign intelligence value
- then it is required to be purged.
- What purging means is removed from NSA
- 18 systems in a way that it cannot be used, period.
- MS. WALD: For any reason at all?
- MR. DE: Correct. There are extensive
- 21 requirements we have gone through with the Foreign
- 22 Intelligence Surveillance Court to ensure to the

- best extent humanly possible that NSA's technical
- 2 systems can, in fact, purge data as required by
- both our minimization procedures and the Foreign
- 4 Intelligence Surveillance Court.
- MS. WALD: But just to pursue that a
- 6 little bit, in your experience is that to purge or
- 7 not to purge decision made early in the process or
- 8 is it kept in there until the analyst or whoever
- 9 has a chance to do some more hunting around and
- see whether or not maybe other things would
- suggest that that does have intelligence value?
- In other words, if there's such a
- concern about U.S., as there is in outside groups,
- 14 about U.S. incidental information that's in the
- files and later there's a possibility of it being
- queried, I wonder how extensive this purging
- operation really is?
- MR. DE: To purge or not to purge, that
- 19 is the question.
- MS. WALD: Yes.
- MR. DE: So our procedures require that
- the determination about foreign intelligence value

- be made as early as possible in the, what one in
- the technical sense calls the processing cycle.
- 3 So it is not something that by default can be
- 4 ignored.
- 5 That being said --
- 6 MS. WALD: And who makes that?
- 7 MR. DE: An assessment as to foreign
- 8 intelligence value is made by foreign intelligence
- 9 analysts.
- MS. WALD: By the analysts who are
- working on it?
- MR. DE: Correct, as they would be the
- ones who have the most relevant information.
- But that also goes to a bigger point as
- to the nature of intelligence analysis. I think
- you all would appreciate that it's difficult to
- determine without context the foreign intelligence
- value of any particular piece of information. In
- 19 fact, that's why the intelligence community is
- often encouraged to connect the dots of various
- 21 pieces of disparate information.
- 22 And so I think we would hope and expect

- 1 that analysts make that determination about
- <sup>2</sup> foreign intelligence value within the context of
- 3 all available information.
- But to your point as to if information
- is not reviewed, what is the default? This is a
- 6 large reason why we in fact have default retention
- 7 periods for data. And for example, for NSA the
- 8 default for PRISM collection is a five year
- <sup>9</sup> retention period.
- But that's also a reason why that
- 11 retention period is adjustable, or at least is
- tailored to the specific nature of the collection.
- So for example, for upstream collection
- the retention period is two years, recognizing the
- nature of, the unique nature of upstream
- 16 collection and that it may have a greater
- implication for privacy interests.
- MS. WALD: Okay. The President
- 19 required, I think he required in his January
- 20 directive that went to 215 that at least
- 21 temporarily the selectors in 215 for querying the
- databank of U.S. telephone calls metadata had to

- 1 be approved by the FISA court.
- Why wouldn't a similar requirement for
- <sup>3</sup> 702 be appropriate in the case where U.S. person
- 4 indicators are used to search the PRISM database?
- 5 I mean what big difference do you see there?
- 6 MR. LITT: Well, I think from a
- 7 theoretical perspective it's the difference
- 8 between a bulk collection and a targeted
- 9 collection, which is that the --
- MS. WALD: But I would think that, I'm
- sorry for interrupting, Bob. I would think that
- message, since 702 has actually got the content.
- MR. LITT: Well, and the second point I
- was going to make is that I think the operational
- burden in the context of 702 would be far greater
- than in the context of 215.
- 17 If you recall the number of actual
- telephone numbers as to which a RAS, reasonable
- 19 articulable suspicion determination was made under
- 20 Section 215 was very small.
- 21 The number of times that we query the
- <sup>22</sup> 702 database for information is considerably

- 1 larger. I suspect that the Foreign Intelligence
- 2 Surveillance Court would be extremely unhappy if
- 3 they were required to approve every such query.
- 4 MS. WALD: I suppose the ultimate
- 5 question for us is whether or not the
- 6 inconvenience to the agencies, or even the
- 7 unhappiness of the FISA court would be the
- 8 ultimate criteria.
- 9 MR. LITT: Well, I mean I think it's
- more than a question of inconvenience. I think
- it's a question of practicability.
- MR. DE: And if I could add one point
- 13 to that. I think one must also look at the
- underlying nature of the collection program at
- 15 issue. And so I think we should be clear not to
- conflate the 215 program with the 702 program, and
- as you mentioned, one deals with metadata and one
- deals with content.
- But the important point being the
- 20 latter is directed at content collection targeting
- 21 non-U.S. persons located abroad, whereas the 215
- 22 program, although it deals with metadata, did not

- $^{1}$  have such a necessary distinction.
- MS. WALD: It did have a selective, I
- mean the 215 program and the original --
- 4 MR. MEDINE: I'm going to, your time,
- 5 the Judge's time has expired, but we'll have an
- 6 opportunity in another round to continue that
- 7 discussion.
- 8 I want to shift to a different topic,
- 9 which is about communication, about searches or
- about queries, which is, and I'm happy to have you
- explain it, but my understanding basically is that
- 12 you are looking for other peoples' discussion of a
- particular selector or email term.
- But I'd like to get back to some of the
- definitions here, which are there are some terms
- here that would be helpful to understand your view
- of, which is what is a target? What is a tasking?
- What is a selector? What's a directive?
- 19 If you could explain those terms,
- 20 because I did want to shift to how those terms
- 21 might apply in the about context.
- MR. WIEGMANN: Okay, I can take a stab

- 1 at that. So a target is the -- maybe I should
- start with selector since that's the operative
- 3 term that the others build on.
- 4 A selector would typically be an email
- 5 account or a phone number that you are targeting.
- 6 So this is the, you get, you know, terrorists at
- 7 Google.com, you know, whatever. That's the
- 8 address that you have information about that if
- 9 you have reason to believe that that person is a
- terrorist and you would like to collect foreign
- intelligence information, I might be focusing on
- that person's account.
- So when you go up on that selector, we
- say go up on or target that selector, that means
- we're collecting information, we're going to the
- 16 provider and getting information related to that
- person's account.
- So we're intercepting in real time and
- then collecting the historic communications of
- that particular account.
- Okay, so that's what we mean by
- 22 targeting a selector. You're using that selector,

- 1 you're providing that to the company, the
- provider, to get information on that account, or
- if it's a phone number on that phone number.
- 4 So that's when we say selector it's
- 5 really an arcane term that people wouldn't
- 6 understand, but it's really phone numbers, email
- <sup>7</sup> addresses, things like that.
- 8 And targeting, it means that's the one
- 9 you're trying to get. They may be in
- 10 communication with other email addresses or other
- 11 phone numbers and so forth. Those are not the
- 12 targeted numbers or accounts, those are others
- that are incidentally acquired because they're on
- 14 the other end of these communications. So target
- is the one you're going after.
- And the statute requires that that
- target be a non-U.S. person located overseas. And
- so that's the foreignness determinations that
- we're talking about as we go through at great
- lengths to make sure that that target is in fact
- belongs to a non-U.S. person that is located
- overseas.

The other two questions? MR. MEDINE: Tasking or task. 3 MR. WIEGMANN: Tasking is when you're 4 going and saying, okay, I want to task this account means I want to collect information from that account. So that's the collection. 6 MR. LITT: You task a selector. MR. WIEGMANN: You task a selector. 9 you're identifying, that's when you take that selector to the company and say this one's been 10 approved. You've concluded that it is, does 11 belong to a non-U.S. person overseas, a terrorist, 12 13 or a proliferator, or a cyber person, right, whoever it is, and then we go to the company and 14 15 get the information. MR. MEDINE: And directives. 16 17 MR. WIEGMANN: So directives are the orders that go to the companies that say they have 18 19 to comply with the lawful tasking. So that's the 20 kind of more overarching order that goes to a

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company provider and says, okay, you have a legal

obligation to comply with the taskings that are

21

- 1 given to you and here are the rules and
- everything. And that's all provided to them.
- Is that a fair summary? I'll ask my
- 4 colleagues to see if that is --
- 5 MR. DE: Keeping target as the
- 6 statutory term. A term like selector is just an
- 7 operational term to refer to something like an
- 8 email or phone number, directive being the legal
- 9 process by which that's effectuated, and tasking
- being the sort of internal government term for how
- 11 you start the collection on a particular selector.
- MR. MEDINE: Okay. So I guess building
- on that, what's the statutory rationale for about
- 14 collections, because if the target is the email
- account or phone number, what is the justification
- 16 for gathering communications between two persons,
- it may even be two U.S. persons who are discussing
- that phone number or that email address, but they
- 19 are not themselves, there's no to or from that
- 20 particular email address or particular phone
- 21 number, why is that targeting that is permissible
- 22 under the statute?

- 1 MR. WIEGMANN: Right. So the
- 2 conclusion there again in a typical case, you're
- 3 right, if you're targeting, you know, bad guy at
- 4 Google.com you're targeting that person's
- 5 accounts, their communications.
- 6 Why abouts collection is different is
- 7 it's not necessarily communications to or from
- 8 that bad guy but instead about that selector.
- 9 And so what the court has concluded is
- that when the statute uses the term targeting of a
- 11 non-U.S. person overseas, targeting that selector
- 12 qualifies under the statute for targeting that
- 13 non-U.S. person overseas.
- So it doesn't have to be targeting
- necessarily to or from, but can also target the
- 16 communications that are about that particular
- selector.
- 18 MR. MEDINE: So that's a different
- meaning of target than earlier, which is where
- you're focusing on an account, now you're
- 21 discussing targeting means discussions about that
- account.

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MR. WIEGMANN: About that selector,
    correct.
3
              MR. DE: It is always focused on that
4
    account, so I think the key is, the misperception
    that some may have that about collection is
6
    somehow about a key word or about the person that
7
    may be behind that account.
              But all collections under Section 702,
9
    whether it's upstream abouts, which is a subset of
10
    upstream, or PRISM is all based on the selectors
11
    at issue.
              MR. MEDINE: But does it raise -- oh, I
13
    see my time has expired so I'll --
14
              MS. BRAND: I'm glad to see you're
15
    following your own rules.
16
              Just to follow-up on that because
17
    that's a good line of inquiry, just to make sure
    that everyone understands. So you're saying that
18
19
    if someone is emailing about Rachel Brand or about
    explosives that would not be a permissible about
20
21
    query under your explanation?
22
              MR. DE: So I would like to --
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- 1 MS. BRAND: But you could, you could
- perhaps get it about Rachel Brand at --
- MR. DE: Just so that, because I think
- 4 this is an issue that all of us slip into,
- 5 clarifying querying for collection.
- 6 So we are discussing now the collection
- of information. Abouts is a type of collection of
- 8 information.
- 9 MS. BRAND: I'm sorry, right. Yes,
- 10 that's right.
- MR. DE: And so all collection of
- information is based, focused on selectors, not
- 13 key words, as you just mentioned like terrorist,
- or like a generic name or things along those
- 15 lines.
- MS. BRAND: Okay.
- 17 MR. DE: And it's the same selectors
- that are used for the PRISM program that are also
- 19 used for upstream collection. It's just a
- 20 different way to effectuate the collection.
- MS. BRAND: Okay. I think a large part
- of the function of these hearings is a public

- education function and so I thought David's
- questions were great to explain the meaning of
- different terms, and I'm glad that you're willing
- 4 to bear with us asking you some questions that
- 5 we've already discussed with you in private. But
- 6 I think it's helpful for everyone to understand
- 7 what we're talking about.
- And along those lines there was some
- 9 discussion in Pat's questions about purging data
- that doesn't turn out to be foreign intelligence
- 11 information.
- But can you explain how on the front-
- end you implement the requirement that, not only
- that the target be a non-U.S. person reasonably
- believed to be abroad but that you expect to get
- 16 foreign intelligence information through the
- collection, that's a separate statutory
- 18 requirement. How do you go about ensuring that
- 19 you're collecting that type of information?
- MR. DE: Sure. So in our earlier
- discussion we skipped right to the foreignness
- determination, but that's actually a second step.

- 1 There has to be a reason one actually wants to
- 2 collect intelligence from the particular selector
- 3 in the first place.
- 4 And then one has to get to the fact, is
- this a type of collection permitted under the
- 6 statute? So there has to be a valid foreign
- <sup>7</sup> intelligence reason to do that collection.
- But beyond that there has to be a valid
- 9 foreign intelligence reason within the ambit of
- one of those certifications that the FISC approves
- annually. Those are certifications on things like
- counterterrorism, encountering WMDs, for example,
- weapons of mass destruction.
- And so when an analyst needs to make a
- determination as to the valid foreign intelligence
- purpose for which they want to effectuate
- 17 collections, they must also document that.
- That is documented in a targeting
- 19 rationale document in advance, ex ante, and those
- are always reviewed by the Justice Department and
- the Director of National Intelligence every 60
- days.

- 1 MR. WIEGMANN: This is an important
- point for non-U.S. persons because people think
- 3 about, okay, well once you've concluded that it's
- 4 a non-U.S. person overseas then you can collect
- 5 whatever you want. As Raj said, that's really not
- 6 the case.
- 7 It really is targeted, not only based
- 8 on the identity of the person and the location of
- <sup>9</sup> the person, but also that you're trying to get
- 10 foreign intelligence. And so it's an important
- 11 protection really in the statute that is designed
- 12 for non-U.S. persons. It's not blanket collection
- of any non-U.S. person overseas. It's aimed at
- only those people who are foreign intelligence
- targets and you have reason to believe that going
- up on that account that I mentioned, bad guy at
- Google.com is going to give you back information,
- information that is foreign intelligence, like on
- 19 cyber threats, on terrorists, on proliferation,
- whatever it might be.
- MS. BRAND: What can you tell us in an
- 22 unclassified setting about the documentation of

- 1 foreign intelligence purpose or the oversight to
- ensure? I mean we've talked a little bit about
- 3 that in past questions, but can you give us
- 4 anything more specific?
- 5 MR. WIEGMANN: They do have to document
- 6 that at NSA and every -- it's essentially called a
- <sup>7</sup> tasking sheet, I think. And on that sheet they
- 8 are documenting the foreign intelligence purpose
- <sup>9</sup> that they are trying to pursue in going after a
- 10 particular target.
- 11 And those are all reviewed together
- with the foreignness determination by the
- 13 Department of Justice on a regular basis.
- MS. BRAND: That's a separate sheet for
- 15 every selector?
- MR. WIEGMANN: For every single one,
- 17 that's right.
- MR. BAKER: And I think, at least with
- 19 respect to FBI, I think the review that Raj
- mentioned earlier is done every 30 days on these
- 21 tasking decisions, I guess you'd say, the foreign
- intelligence and the foreignness determination.

- MR. DE: And if I could put that into
- the broader context of if the question really is
- 3 getting at what is the process within which that
- 4 happens, even before that happens we have training
- 5 for analysts as to how they should document this
- 6 material, we have audits of our databases, we have
- a comprehensive compliance program, we have spot
- 8 checks, even within NSA prior to the 60 day
- 9 reviews that are done by the Department of Justice
- and DNI, for us anyway.
- 11 There are also quarterly reports to the
- 12 FISC on compliance with the program, semiannual
- reports to the FISC and to Congress, and annual
- 14 inspectors general assessments, and as I
- mentioned, the annual certification process by the
- 16 FISC.
- So I think those decisions are, while
- they're one very granular aspect of the program,
- 19 are conducted within the context of this broader
- 20 regime.
- MS. BRAND: Okay. And I see that my
- time just ran out.

- MS. COLLINS COOK: I wanted to ask one
- 2 additional question about abouts. Can you do
- 3 about collection through PRISM?
- 4 MR. DE: No.
- 5 MS. COLLINS COOK: So it is limited to
- 6 upstream collection?
- 7 MR. DE: Correct. PRISM is only
- 8 collection to or from selectors.
- 9 MS. COLLINS COOK: I wanted to shift to
- 10 a separate topic. One of the things that I have
- 11 found both concerning and frustrating through the
- 12 process of our evaluation of programs is how to
- both assess and articulate the efficacy of these
- programs.
- And Mr. Litt, you had begun speaking
- about this in your prepared remarks. And I'd like
- to ask a couple of questions. One, how do you
- 18 assess the efficacy of a particular program? How
- do you think we should be assessing the efficacy
- of a particular program?
- And three, it's not really a question,
- it's more of a comment which is, please don't give

- me a series of success stories and then say that's
- 2 how you evaluate the efficacy of the program.
- 3 Because I think that's an initial response from
- 4 the government often in response to a question,
- <sup>5</sup> either from a body like ours or from the media.
- But how do you assess the efficacy of
- <sup>7</sup> the program, how periodically do you do so, and
- 8 how would you encourage us to assess the efficacy?
- 9 MR. LITT: Well, let me start on that,
- and I want to start by saying that I completely
- 11 agree with you that sort of individual success
- stories are not the way to evaluate a collection
- program and its utility.
- 14 The way you evaluate collection
- programs is going to depend in part on what the
- 16 particular program is for.
- In this case, we have in fact the
- 18 Office of the Director of National Intelligence
- 19 has attempted, part of our job is to try to
- 20 determine that resources are effectively allocated
- within the intelligence community budget.
- 22 And so we have done studies to try to

- look at, okay, what are our collection priorities,
- 2 how much reporting is generated on these
- priorities, and where do those reports come from,
- 4 what kind of collection source, to the extent we
- 5 can identify that. And that's one of the ways
- 6 that we've determined that Section 702 is
- 7 relevant.
- 8 Another thing is just by looking at the
- 9 sheer nature of the information that we get and
- its utility towards a whole variety of national
- 11 priorities. That's a more impressionistic
- 12 approach, and yet you can see time and again in
- important intelligence reports that are provided
- 14 to policy makers that it's derived from Section
- <sup>15</sup> 702 collection.
- So those are two ways that I would look
- 17 at estimating the value of a particular
- 18 collection.
- MR. DE: If I could just add on to
- that. With respect to this program or any program
- I think intelligence professionals will tell you
- that any tool must be evaluated in the context of

- the other tools in which it is utilized.
- 2 All intelligence tools are used in
- 3 complementary fashion with one another and to
- 4 isolate one particular tool and evaluate its
- <sup>5</sup> effectiveness in isolation probably doesn't do us
- 6 justice as to what's valuable and what's not.
- 7 It also depends on the type of tool.
- 8 Different types of intelligence programs are used
- 9 for different purposes. A program like Section
- 10 702 is used for different purposes, for example,
- than a program, a metadata program with telephony
- metadata.
- One may be a discovery tool to help
- 14 pursue more specific collection and others may be
- used as in fact the specific collection that
- 16 follows from that.
- Third, there may be uses in which the
- 18 PCLOB has recognized in terms of either directing
- 19 the government in certain directions or at least
- helping to shape the focus of the government.
- 21 And so I think the absolute wrong
- question is how many plots did this tool stop.

- 1 And you can fill in the blank for what this tool
- <sup>2</sup> refers to. But that is absolutely the wrong
- guestion, and I think it won't do us justice to
- 4 figure out what we need as a government.
- 5 MS. COLLINS COOK: I have time I think
- for one last question. What is the view of the
- 7 various agencies as to whether or not 702 is an
- 8 effective and valuable program for the United
- 9 States?
- 10 MR. BAKER: I think it is an effective
- and valuable program for the United States.
- 12 And if I could just address your last
- 13 question as well. I mean I think you really, in
- order to understand whether it's effective and
- useful you have to think about what your goals are
- with respect to this particular program.
- And the goals for this program, like
- many other collection programs are to obtain I
- think timely, accurate, informative foreign
- intelligence information about the capabilities,
- 21 plans, intentions of foreign powers, agents,
- 22 actors, and so on and so forth.

- 1 And so I think really what you're
- talking really is, I think, developing a good
- metric to understand whether this program is worth
- 4 all of the costs associated with it. And so I
- 5 think you'd want to look at the amount of
- 6 information that you, that we acquire, but also
- 7 then obviously the quality of it. How good is it?
- 8 And I think you can slice that a lot of different
- 9 ways, as my colleagues have suggested.
- So I think that's really what I would
- 11 recommend you be focused on. But you have to,
- because this is a broad-based foreign intelligence
- 13 collection program you have to look at not only, I
- mean you have to look at counterterrorism but you
- 15 have to look more broadly than that because this
- program is not limited just to counterterrorism.
- MR. DE: I agree it's definitely an
- 18 effective program. I think the one point I should
- 19 have added is that the review that Bob mentioned
- 20 happening within the executive branch is not
- 21 limited to the executive branch.
- 22 Congress also reviews the effectiveness

- of this program, as well as the 215 program. And
- 2 I think that's part of the rationale behind having
- 3 sunset clauses for various programs is that when
- 4 those statutory provisions expire, as did the 215
- 5 program twice in the last five years and as did
- 6 702 in 2012, Congress undertakes, as it should, an
- 7 evaluation of the effectiveness of the programs.
- 8 MR. LITT: So I completely agree that
- 9 it is an effective and important program and I
- 10 really want to emphasize the last point that Jim
- 11 made, which is that this program should not be
- considered solely as a counterterrorism program.
- 13 This program has utility, has significant and
- 14 exceedingly important utility in areas outside of
- 15 counterterrorism.
- MR. DEMPSEY: Trying to clear up
- another issue in terms of the participation of
- service providers and the awareness of service
- providers in the 702 implementation, is 702
- implemented, all 702 implementation is done with
- the full knowledge and assistance of any company
- that, from which information is obtained, is that

correct? MR. BAKER: Yes. The answer to that is 3 yes. 4 MR. DEMPSEY: So early on in the debate there were some statements by companies who may or 6 may not have been involved in the program saying, 7 well, we've never heard of PRISM. But whether they ever heard of PRISM, any company that was, from whom information was being obtained under 702 9 knew that it was being obtained? 10 11 MR. LITT: Correct. 12 MR. DE: PRISM is just an internal government term that as a result of the leaks 13 became a public term. But collection under this 14 15 program is done pursuant to compulsory legal 16 process that any recipient company would have 17 received. 18 MR. DEMPSEY: So they know that their 19 data is being obtained because --20 MR. DE: They would have received 21 legal process in order to assist the government,

yes.

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MR. DEMPSEY: One thing I read in one
    of the statements is under 702 you could target
3
    entire countries or regions, is that correct?
              MR. DE: So all collection under 702 is
4
    based on specific selectors, things like phone
6
    numbers or email addresses. It is not a bulk
7
    collection program.
              MR. DEMPSEY: And a selector would not
    be an entire area code, for example?
10
              MR. DE: Correct, correct.
11
              MR. DEMPSEY: Going back to the
    constitutional -- oh, one other set of questions.
12
13
              Even I've lost track now of what you've
    already said here versus what you've said
14
    elsewhere. But in terms of where you make a
15
    determination that a person is a non-U.S. person
17
    outside, reasonably believed to be outside the
    United States and then you later discover that
18
19
    that was good faith but wrong, the person was in
20
    United States, or the person was a U.S. person, do
21
    you track that, and what do you do when you
22
    discover that, and how often do you discover?
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- I'm not talking about the roamings, I'm
- 2 talking just about you thought he was outside the
- 3 United States and that was just wrong, or you
- 4 thought he was a non-U.S. person and that was just
- wrong, how often does that occur?
- 6 MR. DE: So I'll defer to Brad on the
- 7 sort of overarching review, but if I could just
- 8 make a point about what happens. So yes, we keep
- 9 track of every time new information comes to our
- 10 attention to suggest that a prior intelligence
- evaluation was incorrect, even if it had met the
- 12 legal standard.
- Every such incident is a compliance
- 14 matter that has to be reported to the FISC and
- ultimately in semiannual reports reported to the
- 16 Congress.
- 17 And third, that sets in process a
- 18 purging process by which information that should
- 19 not have been collected if it had not met the
- 20 legal standard needs to be purged from NSA
- 21 systems.
- I think Brad can speak to the level of

- 1 accuracy of those.
- MR. BAKER: Just real quick, it's the
- 3 same. The item is de-tasked and the information
- 4 is purged.
- MR. WIEGMANN: Right. So just to
- 6 distinguish again between two different types of
- 7 compliance issues. One is the roamer example that
- 8 you mentioned.
- 9 So this is, let's say we're up on a
- cell phone that we believe belongs to a bad guy
- who's outside the United States, a foreign person,
- 12 and then that person shows up in Chicago, when
- that happens we de-task that cell phone. That
- means we're no longer collecting the
- 15 communications.
- That's a compliance incident that's
- reported but it's not an erroneous determination.
- 18 It's based on the movement of the individual.
- So putting those cases aside, in cases
- where we just kind of get it wrong, we think the
- 21 email account or the phone is located overseas but
- 22 it turns out that that's wrong, or it turns out

- that we think it's a non-U.S. person but it is a
- U.S. person, we do review every single one to see
- 3 if that's the case.
- 4 And our review at Justice we decided to
- 5 review, and as I mentioned earlier, we think it's
- 6 less than one in a thousand cases where they make
- <sup>7</sup> that determination erroneously.
- MR. DE: And this probably bears worth
- 9 repeating that the initial determination is not a
- once and done, so there is an affirmative
- obligation for analysts to reaffirm the
- 12 foreignness determination on a periodic basis,
- which contributes to the ability to make sure that
- determination is in fact fresh and current, which
- of course contributes to the accuracy of that
- determination.
- MR. DEMPSEY: Going to the
- 18 constitutional issues, back to those for a second,
- 19 the FISA court has determined, I mean they must
- they must determine every year that the program is
- 21 being implemented consistent with the Fourth
- 22 Amendment.

that, there was an opinion that they issued. That one is, am I right, not yet public? 3 4 MR. WIEGMANN: I think that's correct. 5 MR. DEMPSEY: Isn't that a good candidate for declassification? 6 7 MR. LITT: We have a lot of good candidates for declassification. 8 9 MR. DEMPSEY: Yeah. MR. LITT: In all seriousness there, we 10 are, there are a lot of documents that we have 11

The very first time they determined

MR. DEMPSEY: The FISA court in 2008

variety of other documents.

when they last considered the constitutionality of

that we are reviewing for declassification that

include not only FISA court opinions but a whole

- a program, the predecessor to 702, the court
- issued a redacted but largely unclassified opinion
- 19 conducting a relatively full Fourth Amendment
- analysis.

12

13

- 21 And there's been some Fourth Amendment
- 22 analysis conducted in this situation, and if

- 1 you're sort of talking about, you know, the
- 2 Rosetta Stone kind of Ur document, then the very
- 3 first court opinion should have been the most
- 4 fulsome explanation of the constitutionality of
- 5 the program.
- I think that -- I mean I hear Bob
- <sup>7</sup> saying there's a lot of opinions out there, but to
- 8 me this one seems to be one that would explicate
- 9 at least one court's judgement on this because
- it's been the basis of -- I assume all the rest
- just said nothing has changed that would merit us
- 12 to reconsider our very first judgement.
- MR. WIEGMANN: So I mean I think it's
- among the opinions. We're committed to reviewing
- all the opinions of the FISA court to determine
- which ones can be declassified in redacted form.
- 17 So I imagine this will be among those that are
- 18 reviewed. So absolutely, I don't disagree. It'll
- be among the opinions that will be reviewed.
- MR. DE: I just don't want to leave
- 21 folks with any mysterious misimpression. I think
- the Board has access to everything and so one

- 1 shouldn't have to assume anything about subsequent
- opinions. The Board has in fact reviewed
- <sup>3</sup> everything.
- 4 And so I just don't want -- what I
- 5 think would be an unfortunate consequence would be
- 6 for folks to take away the impression that there
- 7 is a mysterious opinion that has some secret
- $^8$  analysis, and I don't think that's the case. I
- 9 don't think you intended to suggest that.
- 10 MR. MEDINE: The Board does have access
- 11 to it but I think the question is whether the
- 12 public should have access to it as part of the
- debate. But it's Judge Wald's --
- MR. DEMPSEY: The public had access to
- $^{15}$  the 2008 --
- MR. MEDINE: It's Judge Wald's turn.
- MR. WIEGMANN: So just one other thing
- 18 I would add on that is that 702 collection has now
- been challenged by a number of criminal defendants
- when 702 information is being used against them in
- their cases. And so we'll be filing public briefs
- 22 and we can expect some more decisions in that area

- 1 as well.
- 2 So that's another way that the
- 3 constitutionality of 702 will now be on the public
- 4 record, or I mean the opinions on it, and the
- 5 briefs and everything will now be a matter of
- 6 public record.
- 7 MR. MEDINE: Judge Wald.
- MS. WALD: Okay. By whom and under
- 9 what substantive criteria is the initial decision
- 10 to use a U.S. person selector for searching the
- 11 PRISM base made? I mean who decides let's do
- 12 that? What's the substantive criteria on which
- 13 they make it?
- You don't have to go into the review
- process. I know the decision will be reviewed up
- and down. But how does that get made? What's the
- 17 substantive basis?
- MR. DE: So I can speak for NSA in
- 19 particular.
- MS. WALD: So just to clarify, that
- 21 means if it goes to one of the other agencies, not
- NSA, CIA or FBI or something, they make their own

- 1 substantive decisions for querying?
- MR. DE: Yes. The 702 program perhaps
- 3 as a necessary predicate is one that all agencies
- 4 operate on their own and have their own
- 5 minimization procedures which would address topics
- 6 like searches.
- NSA's procedures in this regard, in
- 8 this element have been made public and so the
- 9 standard is that such a query needs to be
- 10 reasonably likely to return foreign intelligence
- 11 information.
- MS. WALD: Be reasonably likely. And
- who is it made by initially?
- MR. DE: It's made by the analyst.
- MS. WALD: By the analyst who's working
- on that particular case, okay.
- 17 My other question is that the President
- did, if I understand his directive correctly,
- direct that there be some changes in the treatment
- of non-U.S. persons as to the limits on and
- 21 retention of the data acquired incidentally to
- bring them more in line with those of U.S. persons

- incidentally where there is no foreign
- <sup>2</sup> intelligence value apparently.
- 3 Can you tell us a little bit more
- 4 specifically if anything has been done in that
- regard or is being contemplated vis-a-vis 702?
- 6 MR. LITT: So I think first of all it's
- <sup>7</sup> important to understand the point that somebody
- 8 made, it may have been Brad made earlier, which is
- <sup>9</sup> that there are already protections to some degree
- 10 built into the system there. The protections for
- 11 non-U.S. persons are not as great as those for
- U.S. persons because U.S. persons are protected by
- 13 the Fourth Amendment.
- But there is a requirement that we
- 15 can't target a selector unless we have reason to
- believe it's of foreign intelligence value. And
- there's sort of a general principle that the
- intelligence agencies, their job is to collect,
- 19 analyze, and disseminate foreign intelligence
- information, not random information.
- 21 I think what the President has directed
- is that we go back and look at our procedures and

- 1 not only with respect to 702, but with respect to
- 2 signals intelligence in general, assess whether,
- 3 the extent to which it's possible to provide
- 4 limitations on collection, retention, and
- 5 dissemination that more closely track those for
- 6 U.S. persons.
- 7 For example, Executive Order 12333
- 8 provides specific categories of personal
- 9 information about U.S. persons that can
- appropriately be retained and disseminated.
- 11 There's a list of them in Executive
- 12 Order 12333 and the President has asked that we
- assess whether we can apply those same sorts of
- 14 rules to personal identifiable information of
- 15 non-U.S. persons.
- MS. WALD: Right now, just to follow-
- up, right now if you get incidental information
- about a foreign person in the course of targeting
- another foreign person and you look at it, do you
- use the same criteria and look at the same review
- and say, well, you know, he was just talking to
- his grandmother or something, there isn't any

- 1 foreign intelligence there, and you purge it?
- MR. DE: Any time there is not foreign
- intelligence value to collection, by definition it
- 4 would be purged.
- 5 But I think an important point to be
- 6 made as you are articulating, Judge, is incidental
- 7 collection, just to explain that term a little
- bit, all communications obviously have two ends.
- 9 One end is the target and the other is presumably
- not a target. We don't know. One doesn't know ex
- 11 ante.
- 12 And so by definition there will be
- incidental collection of non-U.S. persons, as well
- 14 as U.S. persons. Historically, constitutional
- protections obviously have only applied to the
- U.S. person subset.
- MS. WALD: I understand.
- MR. BAKER: Can I just make a comment
- 19 about that?
- MS. WALD: We don't have time. Okay,
- 21 quickly on the last time, I found it very
- 22 provocative when you were answering Beth Cook's

- 1 question about if you're going to assess the
- efficacy of a program you have to look at it in
- 3 terms of its efficacy and the holistic view of all
- 4 of the programs.
- I guess it's inevitable that I would
- 6 ask the question, but how can anybody except you
- people do that, because so many of your programs,
- 8 I think, are just unknown, even to the FISA court?
- 9 They're not all FISA supervised, and certainly the
- outside world doesn't know about many of them. So
- 11 you know, how in effect can an outside assessment
- 12 be made?
- MR. DE: If I could just address it
- since it was in response to my comment. Certainly
- 15 I think I would not suggest that there should be a
- public evaluation of all intelligence programs. I
- think, for example, this Board as access to
- information about counterterrorism programs and so
- 19 I would expect that any evaluation would be in the
- 20 context of the other CT programs that you have the
- <sup>21</sup> jurisdiction to review.
- 22 As with Congress, as I mentioned, they

- 1 reevaluate programs on a periodic basis. And I
- think the public record now indicates that there
- is a fairly robust exchange between the executive
- 4 branch and the legislative branch on a variety of
- 5 programs. And so I think that's where
- 6 traditionally the evaluation has occurred.
- 7 MR. LITT: Yeah, I was just going to
- 8 say that we've managed, we've set the balance
- 9 between public disclosure and the need for secrecy
- 10 by empowering the congressional intelligence
- 11 committees. We're required by statute to keep
- them fully and currently informed of intelligence
- activities, and we do. They know about these
- 14 programs and they have the opportunity to evaluate
- 15 them, and they do.
- In fact, they passed an Intelligence
- Authorization Act that includes a lengthy
- 18 classified annex that is very prescriptive with
- respect both to reports that it requires of us and
- directions as to what we should, you know, where
- we should be spending our money.
- 22 So that's sort of the external

- oversight and the way we've said, okay, well, we
- 2 need to have oversight of these but they still
- 3 need to remain classified.
- 4 MR. MEDINE: Did you want to finish? I
- don't know, you wanted to make a point earlier
- 6 about foreign intelligence.
- 7 MR. BAKER: I had several points I
- 8 wanted to make. But let me just on that real
- <sup>9</sup> quick, I mean I think the, even the addition of
- 10 Congress having oversight of it, the courts in
- certain circumstances, and then also obviously the
- 12 President and all of the executive branch
- officials, we have an obligation to make sure that
- in addition to adherence to the law and taking
- care that the laws are faithfully executed, to
- spend our time and spend our money on programs
- that are effective and not be wasting our time on
- things that are not.
- 19 I mean that flows from the President to
- the DNI, the Attorney General, Director of the
- 21 FBI, Director of NSA and so on. We should be
- focused on things that are useful and collecting

- information that produces the kind of intelligence
- information that I was talking about before.
- 3 So the other comment that I just wanted
- 4 to make was just with respect to FBI, our
- 5 personnel only have access to the databases when
- 6 they've received the proper training with
- 7 appropriate oversight and operating consistent
- 8 with the court-approved standard minimization
- 9 procedures when they're doing their query
- 10 activity.
- MR. MEDINE: I wanted to shift to a
- different subject, which is attorney client
- 13 privilege. There were some press reports a couple
- of weeks ago about collection of information that
- may involve attorney client communications.
- But I want to focus particularly on the
- NSA minimization procedures, which I understand do
- 18 exclude attorney client communications but only in
- 19 a very narrow context where the client is under
- 20 criminal indictment and the United States,
- 21 basically on a federal criminal indictment.
- That seems like a very narrow

- interpretation of attorney client privilege. I
- wanted to see if that is the interpretation you
- 3 apply in minimizing communications, and if it is
- 4 what impact there would be if it was expanded to
- 5 the more normally accepted definition of attorney
- 6 client privilege, which is basically lawyers and
- 7 clients consulting with each other?
- MR. DE: So we have written a letter to
- 9 the ABA and commented on it to the Board and to
- the public, I think it's a public letter now,
- which explicates in fuller detail than I probably
- can off the top of my head as to our procedures.
- But I think one fundamental premise is
- that analysts are under an obligation to identify
- for the Office of General Counsel any time they
- 16 encounter something that may be potentially
- <sup>17</sup> privileged.
- And I think as all of us who are
- lawyers, I think that probably encompasses every
- one up here on the stage, knows just because a
- 21 communication is with a lawyer does not mean it is
- in fact a privileged communication. So it's

- 1 helpful to have a lawyer involved to determine
- 2 that.
- While I can't speak to any particular
- 4 incident that may have been written about in the
- 5 press I think there's a couple of big picture
- 6 points that are worth making. One is our office
- 7 has historically provided a range of advice to
- 8 minimize to the extent possible the collection of
- <sup>9</sup> attorney privileged material.
- 10 MR. MEDINE: That's privilege just
- where there's a criminal indictment or are you
- 12 viewing privilege --
- MR. DE: Beyond the criminal. So the
- 14 point I'm trying to make is that while there may
- be a specific provision in the 702 procedures that
- 16 addresses the criminal context, there's a reason
- why we ask analysts to consult counsel, because
- the advice can often be tailored to the specifics
- of a circumstance far outside the criminal realm,
- 20 recognizing the import of attorney client
- 21 privileged material in context, even outside the
- 22 criminal context.

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MR. MEDINE: I want to talk a little
    bit about reverse targeting where you target
3
    someone overseas potentially with the view of
4
    collecting information about a U.S. person in the
    United States, and that's impermissible.
6
              There seems, again maybe this is a
7
    somewhat technical point, but there seems to be
8
    somewhat of a quirk in the statute. It says that
9
    you can target people reasonably believed to be
    outside the Unites States, you cannot reverse
10
    target someone outside the United States if the
11
    purpose is to target a particular known person
12
13
    reasonably believed to be in the United States.
14
              Does that permit targeting a person
15
    outside the United States with the intent of
16
    gathering information about U.S. persons not in
17
    the United States?
18
              MR. WIEGMANN: No.
              MR. MEDINE: Why not?
20
              MR. WIEGMANN: There's a separate
21
    provision that bars targeting U.S. persons outside
22
    the United States and so if you were doing that
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- and you are trying to target a U.S. person outside
- the United States, you couldn't do that.
- MR. MEDINE: So you wouldn't do the
- 4 reverse targeting procedure?
- 5 MR. WIEGMANN: I don't know if you
- 6 would call that reverse targeting --
- 7 MR. DE: There is another statutory
- provision that prohibits the targeting of U.S.
- 9 persons outside the U.S. under 702 --
- MR. MEDINE: Even reverse targeting?
- 11 Again, I'm not talking about -- I agree it's clear
- that you can't target a U.S. person outside of the
- United States, but what if I find a non-U.S.
- 14 person that I know is in communication with a U.S.
- person who's also outside of the United States, is
- that permissible?
- MR. WIEGMANN: No.
- MR. DE: No.
- MR. MEDINE: Because?
- MR. WIEGMANN: Because you would be
- 21 targeting, if your real purpose is to target that
- U.S. person, you're targeting that person.

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MR. MEDINE: So reverse targeting in
    your view is the same as targeting?
3
    prohibition on reverse targeting is co-existent
4
    with the prohibition on targeting?
5
              MR. WIEGMANN: Well, I mean again I
    think of reverse targeting as a geographic issue
6
7
    essentially when you're targeting, let's say you
8
    have a legitimate target overseas but you really
9
    want the communications of a U.S. person or a
10
    non-U.S. person inside the United States, but the
11
    statute says you can't do that.
12
              MR. MEDINE: Right, but --
13
              MR. WIEGMANN: But as we were just
    explaining which is if you have a U.S. person that
14
15
    you're interested in overseas, you can't use 702
16
    to target them either and I don't think --
17
              MR. MEDINE: Or reverse target them?
18
              MR. WIEGMANN: What's that?
19
              MR. MEDINE: If you know that that U.S.
20
    person is in communication with a non-U.S. person
21
    and both of them are overseas --
22
              MR. WIEGMANN: Right.
```

- 1 MR. MEDINE: Could you target the
- 2 non-U.S. person to get the U.S. person's
- 3 communications?
- 4 MR. WIEGMANN: You couldn't do it for
- 5 that purpose but if the non-U.S. person overseas
- is a valid foreign intelligence target that you're
- <sup>7</sup> interested in their communications, sure, you can
- 8 target that person. And the fact that they're
- 9 incidentally communicating with a U.S. person
- overseas, that's okay. I wouldn't consider that
- 11 reverse targeting.
- 12 You still have to have that legitimate
- 13 target. I don't know if that answers your
- 14 question, but.
- MR. MEDINE: It did.
- MR. BAKER: I'm not going to read it
- 17 now and take up your time, but take a look at
- 18 Section 704 A 2, and that may address the kind of
- 19 concern that you're focused on perhaps, but
- 20 perhaps not.
- MR. MEDINE: Okay. I wanted to get
- 22 back to efficacy. As you know, our charge is to

- 1 look at the balance between national security and
- 2 privacy and civil liberties, and I think following
- y up on Ms. Cook's question -- sorry, I'll just hold
- 4 that until the next round.
- MS. BRAND: I wanted to go back to
- 6 upstream collection a little bit. I've seen some
- <sup>7</sup> statements in the public domain about the volume
- 8 of upstream collection vis-a-vis the volume of
- 9 PRISM collection. What can you tell us in a
- 10 public setting about that?
- MR. DE: I think the best publicly
- available information is from the October 11th,
- 2011 opinion that has now been declassified in
- which there was a rough estimate there, and
- forgive me for if it's not precise, but that about
- 16 10 percent of collection is upstream. On the
- order of magnitude, I just don't know the exact
- 18 number.
- MS. BRAND: Okay. So you said in an
- 20 earlier round of questioning that upstream,
- 21 collection from upstream is retained for a shorter
- 22 period of time than collection from PRISM and you

- 1 said that the reason for that distinction is that
- there's a potentially greater privacy concern with
- 3 respect to upstream collection.
- 4 Can you elaborate on why, whether the
- 5 additional privacy concerns that pertain to
- 6 upstream.
- 7 MR. DE: Sure. And a lot of this is
- 8 laid out in this court opinion that's now public.
- 9 This is from the fall of 2011. I think because of
- the nature of abouts collections, which we have
- discussed, there is potentially a greater
- 12 likelihood of implicating incidental U.S. person
- communication or inadvertently collecting wholly
- 14 domestic communications that therefore must need
- 15 to be purged.
- And for a variety of circumstances the
- court evaluated the minimization procedures we had
- in place and as a consequence of that evaluation
- the government put forth a shorter retention
- 20 period to be sure that the court could reach
- 21 comfort with the compliance of those procedures
- with the Fourth Amendment. And so two years was

- one element of the revised procedures that are now
- <sup>2</sup> public.
- MS. BRAND: So from what you just said
- 4 that if using a legitimately tasked about term a
- wholly domestic communication is collected, it has
- 6 to be purged?
- 7 MR. DE: If one recognizes it, yes. In
- 8 fact, there's a --
- 9 MS. BRAND: Even if it has foreign
- 10 intelligence information?
- MR. DE: There are specifics. Off the
- 12 top of my head I can't articulate all the
- particular exceptions in the minimization
- 14 procedures but there are an elaborate set of
- detailed procedures that are now public that
- discuss how upstream collection must be treated in
- order to account for this concern.
- And it has things like data must be
- 19 segregated in certain ways where the risk of
- 20 collecting a wholly domestic communication is
- higher, there's a shorter retention period.
- Wholly domestic communications are not

- 1 permitted under the statute, and so therefore as a
- default rule, yes, it must be purged.
- MS. BRAND: Jim, was there something
- 4 you wanted to add?
- Okay. I want to use the word
- 6 incidental collection there again, and your
- 7 definition earlier seemed to be that by incidental
- 8 you mean, by incidental U.S. person collection you
- 9 mean that the person on the other end of the phone
- from the non-U.S. person abroad is a U.S. person.
- 11 That's your definition, right?
- 12 Is there another definition that you're
- aware of? Because you seem to be -- okay.
- 14 I think there's been some frustration
- 15 with the use the term incidental in that context
- because it's not accidental, it's intentional.
- 17 It's actually unavoidable. And so I just wanted
- to make sure that we're all on the same page, that
- by incidental you mean not accidental, not
- unintentional, but this is actually what we're
- doing.
- MR. LITT: It is incidental to the

- 1 collection on the target. It is not accidental,
- 2 it is not inadvertent. Incidental is the
- 3 appropriate term for it.
- 4 MS. BRAND: Okay.
- 5 MR. DE: And I'd say that term I think
- 6 has been used far beyond this program and
- <sup>7</sup> historically, so there's no judgement intended.
- 8 That is just a term.
- 9 MS. BRAND: Okay, okay. I'll hold the
- other questions for another round.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: Just following up on
- David's question, I think it goes to a broader
- point which is that there is a perception that
- this statute is fairly complicated, there's got to
- be loopholes or idiosyncrasies in there somewhere.
- But let me just ask you, would it be
- the view of the United States government that it
- is appropriate to use 702 to intentionally target
- 19 U.S. persons, whether directly or through reverse
- targeting, whether they are inside the United
- 21 States or outside the United States?
- MR. LITT: No, definitely not.

MR. DE: No. MR. LITT: That is not permissible. 3 MS. COLLINS COOK: I wanted to also 4 follow up on a question about the abouts. And I apologize, again just for folks understanding that 6 we spent six and a half hours talking with folks 7 about just the oversight mechanisms in place and were unable to get through that entire 9 conversation. So I apologize if you've said this 10 before today. 11 The collection methods, procedures that 12 you use with respect to abouts, those procedures, 13 are they approved by the FISA court? 14 MR. DE: Yes. 15 MS. COLLINS COOK: Are those 16 transparent to Congress? 17 MR. DE: Yes. 18 MS. COLLINS COOK: I think we haven't 19 necessarily, we started to allude to this but can

you talk a little bit about your impression of how

the intel committees in particular view their

obligations with respect to oversight of your

20

21

- 1 programs and whether you have found in your
- 2 experience that to be pro forma or in any way
- 3 lacking?
- 4 And let the record reflect a few, not
- <sup>5</sup> quite eye rolls, but I think the response was, no,
- 6 they have not found this to be pro forma in any
- 7 way.
- 8 MR. LITT: I've been on this job now
- 9 for getting on towards five years and I have found
- 10 nothing about my interactions or our institutional
- interactions with the intelligence committees to
- 12 be pro forma.
- They have fairly substantial staffs
- which have a lot of experience. Some of them come
- 15 from the community. They know, they dig very
- deeply into what we do. The DNI occasionally uses
- the term wire-brushing for the interactions that
- we have with the committees, so it's not a pro
- 19 forma interaction in any way.
- MR. DE: If I could add one point, on
- 21 programs like 702 that we're talking about today
- for example, we all lived through the

- reauthorization of Section 702 in 2012.
- 2 That process was not simply in
- 3 connection with the intelligence committees, but I
- 4 can remember numerous briefings where we would go
- <sup>5</sup> up for a member, for all member briefings that the
- 6 intelligence committees would host for the
- 7 Congress.
- 8 So I don't want to leave the impression
- 9 that it's only with the intelligence committees,
- particularly for a program like 702 that needs to
- 11 be voted on by all members of Congress on the
- 12 basis of a sunset clause.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: I want to make sure
- that my colleagues have time for their last round
- of questions so I'll cede my time.
- MR. DEMPSEY: Going back to the
- minimization procedures question, and specifically
- 18 the incidental collection question, am I right
- that the rule is that whether the information is
- inadvertently collected, that is you were tasking
- on the wrong selector or some mistake was made and
- you got something that you didn't intend to get

- that's inadvertent, or you were correctly
- 2 targeting the right account and then you collected
- 3 communications to or from a U.S. person that's
- 4 incidental, the procedures say, minimization
- 5 procedures, rules say that if you never discover
- 6 that it was inadvertent and never discover that it
- 7 was incidental, you never realized that it was a
- 8 U.S. person collection, it's deleted after five
- 9 years?
- The basic rule is you keep it for five
- 11 years, you keep everything for five years, two
- 12 years on upstream, five years on PRISM, and then
- it gets deleted. That's the baseline rule, right?
- MR. LITT: Correct.
- MR. DEMPSEY: And then you on top of
- that the rule is that if then you, through
- analysis, through reviewing it that it was
- inadvertent or incidental collection on a U.S.
- 19 person you must immediately purge? Bob's shaking
- his head.
- 21 MR. LITT: There's a difference in the
- way inadvertent and incidental, as you're using

- 1 those terms, are very different concepts.
- 2 Inadvertent refers to a collection that
- 3 was not authorized by law. That is purged.
- 4 Incidental --
- 5 MR. DEMPSEY: Purged unless?
- 6 MR. LITT: Unless, as Raj mentioned,
- 7 that there are certain exceptions. I'm certainly
- 8 not able to recite them but they do exist. But
- 9 they're fairly narrow.
- 10 Incidental is collection that is
- 11 authorized by law. And at that point the rules
- 12 relating to U.S. persons kick in and if you
- determine that it has no foreign intelligence
- 14 value you purge it.
- MR. DEMPSEY: Right, but I mean what's
- 16 your response to the argument, well, fine, that
- just means that if you think it's valuable you can
- 18 keep it, if you don't think it's valuable then you
- 19 purge it?
- MR. LITT: But it's lawfully collected.
- MR. DEMPSEY: Fair enough. But you do,
- 22 if it is of interest to you, you do keep it?

MR. LITT: If it's of potential foreign intelligence value --3 MR. DEMPSEY: Minimization means --4 MR. LITT: If it can be useful to providing the intelligence that policy makers need or to protecting the nation against threats, then 6 7 yes, we keep it for the required period. MR. WIEGMANN: So again, to make it 9 more concrete, if it's a terrorist overseas, he is 10 calling a number in the United States that belongs to a U.S. person, we want to keep that 11 information. It is incidental, the fact that 12 13 we're getting the U.S. person number and we're targeting that non-U.S. person overseas, but he's 14 15 calling Minneapolis, we want to keep that 16 communication because it's of high interest to us. 17 MR. DE: One point I would add is just that minimization refers to steps in the process, 18 19 everything from collection to review to 20 dissemination. And so I think we're talking about 21 one element here, and to retention. And so there 22 are different stages in the process.

- 1 To disseminate that information a
- 2 certain threshold would have to be met and so
- <sup>3</sup> forth.
- 4 MR. DEMPSEY: Yeah, I wish there were
- some way, I mean I know it's totally now embedded
- 6 both in law and guideline and practice, but
- 7 minimization means different things.
- 8 Minimization means keep it for five
- 9 years and then delete it, minimization means don't
- disseminate identifying information, minimization
- means delete it unless it's intelligence
- 12 information. Those are very different.
- MR. LITT: Well, they all fall within
- the statutory definition of minimization
- 15 essentially. I'm going to mangle it a little bit,
- but it's procedures that are designed to minimize
- the acquisition, retention, and dissemination of
- 18 information about unconsenting United States
- 19 persons consistent with the need to produce
- <sup>20</sup> foreign intelligence information.
- 21 And so you're going to have different
- 22 minimization rules based on the particular

- 1 missions of the agencies. You're going to have
- different minimization rules depending on the
- nature of the activity you're governing. You're
- 4 going to have different minimization rules
- 5 depending upon the nature of the information. But
- 6 minimization is that entire category of rules.
- 7 MR. DEMPSEY: But it is a little bit of
- 8 a circular definition which means different things
- 9 in different contexts. Sometimes it means
- 10 you've --
- MR. LITT: I'm not sure I'd say
- 12 circular but I would say it means different things
- in different contexts.
- MR. WIEGMANN: It's a balance.
- MR. BAKER: If I could just real quick
- just to emphasize, you know, as Bob was just
- 17 alluding to, the FBI does have its own standard
- minimization procedures with respect to this type
- of activity. I assume you've had access to those.
- So anyway, there's a lot on the table
- that we just talked about with respect to
- 22 minimization, but I would direct you to those as

- well in terms of understanding the FBI's role.
- MR. MEDINE: Judge Wald.
- MS. WALD: When a U.S. person
- 4 information that's been, quote, incidentally
- 5 acquired and kept for legitimate reasons or
- 6 whatever in the base is disseminated to foreign
- 7 governments, as is permitted under certain
- 8 circumstances, it said that it's usually masked.
- 9 I think it would be useful for public
- 10 consumption to know what the masking process
- 11 entails, and in what circumstances it isn't
- masked, and whether or not the different agencies
- can use different criterias for masking or it's
- 14 all centralized by Justice or the Attorney
- 15 General's provision.
- MR. DE: Well, I can speak just for
- masking generally at NSA, and abstracting from the
- 18 second party issue for a moment, is substituting a
- 19 generic phrase like U.S. person for the name of
- the U.S. person that is actually collected.
- And that U.S. person is a legal term.
- Obviously that means an individual or it could

- 1 mean a U.S. company or firm.
- I don't think there's a centralized
- 3 process. That's how we do it at NSA. I think
- 4 that's how other agencies do it as well.
- MS. WALD: But different agencies
- 6 decide how to interpret their own criteria as to
- 7 what should be masked and what shouldn't?
- MR. LITT: It's part of the, in the 702
- 9 context it's part of their minimization
- 10 procedures.
- MS. WALD: Well, so what does that tell
- me? No, I mean specifically as to whether or not
- in what circumstances it's not masked, that's up
- to each agency, or not?
- MR. LITT: Yeah, it's done on an agency
- 16 by agency basis.
- MR. WIEGMANN: But generally speaking,
- 18 I think the minimization rules of each agency
- 19 generally would not permit you to disseminate U.S.
- 20 person information where that is not either
- 21 foreign intelligence or necessary to understand
- that foreign intelligence. So in other words --

MR. DE: Or evidence of a crime. MR. WIEGMANN: Or evidence of a crime 3 for FBI. So in other words, if I need to, if 4 it's Joe Smith and his name is necessary if I'm passing it to that foreign government and it's key 6 7 that they understand that it's Joe Smith because that's relevant to understanding what the threat is, or what the information is, let's say he's a 10 cyber, malicious cyber hacker or whatever, and it was key to know the information, then you might 11 12 pass Joe Smith's name. 13 If it was not, if it was incidentally in the communication but was not pertinent to the 14 information you're trying to convey, then that 15 16 would be deleted. It would just say U.S. person. 17 It would be blocked out. 18 So they were in communication with, and 19 it would just say U.S. person. So that's 20 essentially how it works I think more or less in 21 all the agencies. Is that a fair description, 22 Raj?

- 1 MR. DE: Yeah, the basic parameters for
- <sup>2</sup> FISA collection are articulated in the statute,
- 3 the big principles of necessary to understand
- 4 foreign intelligence or evidence of a crime. And
- 5 then that's effectuated through the minimization
- 6 procedures that each agency has. That's for 12333
- 7 collection. It's articulated, as Bob mentioned,
- 8 in 12333.
- 9 MS. WALD: With those last subpart,
- would those, just take NSA as an example, would
- those mask criteria also include foreigners,
- non-U.S. person's information?
- I mean suppose the government of
- 14 Romania asks some question which might require a
- Rumanian non-targeted person who's in your PRISM
- base, would these masking procedures, etcetera,
- apply there too or are they just for U.S. persons?
- MR. DE: In today's rule, masking
- 19 procedures are for U.S. persons because they are
- derivative of the constitutional requirement, the
- 21 minimization procedures that need to conform with
- the constitutional parameters for U.S. persons.

- MS. WALD: So it would be up to the
- 2 agency to decide whether they thought it was right
- or wrong to give that information to a foreign
- 4 government?
- 5 MR. DE: I think there's two points to
- 6 mention. One is no information would ever be
- 7 disseminated unless it had foreign intelligence
- <sup>8</sup> value.
- 9 MS. WALD: No, I know.
- MR. DE: That's the entire point of
- disseminating that information.
- MS. WALD: But having made that
- decision in terms --
- MR. DE: If I may continue. The second
- point is that I think what the President has
- directed the DNI to examine in the PPD is what
- 17 protections could be extended to non-U.S. persons.
- 18 That's the study.
- MS. WALD: And that's what you're
- working on?
- MR. DE: That's the issue we're
- 22 evaluating now.

- MR. BAKER: One quick comment though.
- If I'm not mistaken, if you look in 50 USC 1806,
- which is Title I of FISA but I think also applies
- 4 to Section 702, it says, and I don't think it
- 5 restricts it with respect to U.S. person or
- 6 non-U.S. person, that no federal officer or
- 7 employee can disclose, can use or disclose
- 8 information at all except for a lawful purpose.
- 9 So the information could only be
- disclosed for a lawful purpose. And I believe
- that's across the board.
- MS. WALD: I don't have anything more.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: I wanted to make
- 14 sure I understood though both Judge Wald's
- question and the response.
- I understood her to be asking under
- 17 what circumstances dissemination could be made to
- a foreign government.
- 19 Are there separate agreements and
- 20 procedures that might govern in that instance or
- 21 are analysts able to simply decide they would like
- to provide foreign intelligence information to

foreign governments? 2 MR. DE: At least our procedures, our 3 publicly available procedures have provisions that 4 address sharing with second party partners. I don't have at my fingertips the details, but I can 6 certainly get back to you on that. But they are now public and articulate the circumstances under 7 which information can be shared with second party 9 partners. Those procedures are approved by the 10 FISC annually. 11 MR. LITT: I think that the critical point is that these are part of the minimization 12 13 procedures that have to be approved by the FISA 14 court to the extent we're talking again about 15 Section 702. 16 MS. WALD: The minimization procedures 17 are only for U.S. persons, aren't they? 18 MR. LITT: Yes, that's right. MS. WALD: But I was talking --20 MR. LITT: But there are general rules about when we can share FISA information. 21 22 MR. MEDINE: All right. Well, I want

- 1 to thank the panel very much for spending a fair
- amount of time with us today and discussing these
- issues in a public setting and we appreciate it.
- 4 And we'll take a short break and then
- we'll resume at eleven o'clock with our second
- 6 panel. Thank you.
- 7 (Off the record)
- MR. MEDINE: We're now ready to begin
- 9 our second panel, and we are very pleased to be
- joined by Laura Donohue, who's a Professor of Law
- 11 at Georgetown University Law School, Jameel
- 12 Jaffer, for a return engagement, Deputy Legal
- Director at the ACLU, Julian Ku, who's a Professor
- 14 of Law at Hofstra University, and Rachel
- 15 Levinson-Waldman, who is Counsel for Liberty and
- 16 National Security Program at the Brennan Center
- for Justice, and each will make a brief set of
- 18 remarks, if you want to start.
- MS. DONOHUE: Sure. Thank you very
- much for the opportunity to be here today. I'm
- looking forward to the discussion on 702.
- I'd like to confine my remarks to four

- central areas, just my initial remarks, and raise
- 2 statutory and constitutional concerns.
- First is with regard to targeting. I'm
- 4 particularly concerned about four areas here.
- <sup>5</sup> First is the inclusion of information about
- 6 targets, and not just to or from targets.
- 7 Second is the burden of proof regarding
- 8 whether somebody is a U.S. person or not.
- 9 Third is with regard to the burden of
- 10 proof regarding the location of the individual.
- 11 That is, if the NSA in either instance does not
- 12 confirm, does not actually know where they are,
- the assumption that is built into the minimization
- and targeting is that it is neither a U.S. person,
- 15 nor are they domestically located. And there is
- 16 no affirmative duty for due diligence on the NSA
- to actually check their databases to find out if
- that individual is or is not a U.S. person and is
- or is not in the United States. And then the
- implications for the right to privacy.
- In the second area on the post-
- 22 targeting analysis, I'm particularly concerned

- about the role of FISC, that it's severely
- 2 circumscribed and that we're having warrantless
- 3 searches.
- 4 So in the last panel we heard about
- 5 that moment at which the information is obtained
- is not a search because it's foreign intelligence
- and there's an exception for the gathering of the
- 8 intelligence.
- 9 But when information is then used for
- criminal prosecution, then at that point when the
- data is searched, if it were a case where if I
- were, say, speaking with a mobster in the United
- 13 States and they happened to overhear incidental to
- 14 my communications that I was engaged in other
- criminal activity, they would have to go to a
- court to obtain a warrant to then put a wiretap on
- my phone and listen to the content of my
- 18 communications.
- In this situation they don't do that
- 20 and then they find that individuals are implicated
- in criminal activity and refer it for criminal
- 22 prosecution.

- 1 And I would be happy to address the
- 2 2002 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court of
- 3 review opinion that addressed this aspect, but it
- 4 was with regard to Title I where there was
- 5 probable cause that had already been established
- 6 that the target in that case was a foreign power,
- <sup>7</sup> an agent of a foreign power.
- 8 In this particular case, the individual
- 9 is not themselves the target of any investigation
- and so the prerequisite Fourth Amendment threshold
- 11 has not been met.
- The third area is the retention and the
- 13 \_\_
- MS. COLLINS COOK: Can you slow down
- just a bit? I can't keep up. Thank you.
- MR. MEDINE: And we also have a court
- 17 reporter who's probably her fingers are slowing
- down.
- MS. DONOHUE: Sorry, I beg your pardon.
- I realize we only have a few minutes, and I also
- have written remarks which I'll be submitting.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: I have reviewed

- 1 them. Thank you. I've reviewed what you've
- <sup>2</sup> submitted thus far.
- MS. DONOHUE: Right. So I will be
- 4 submitting on these particular points following
- 5 the hearing.
- 6 On the third area, the retention and
- 7 the dissemination of data, and this came up with
- Judge Wald's question on the previous panel, there
- <sup>9</sup> are a number of exceptions in terms of when the
- information itself has to be expunded.
- The foreign intelligence information
- exception I would direct your attention to. It's
- not defined in either Section 702 specifically, or
- in the minimization or targeting procedures.
- 15 It is, however, defined in FISA to
- include any information that would be helpful for
- 17 foreign affairs, which would include economic
- information, it would include political
- information, it would include a whole range of
- 20 data.
- The retention, dissemination for
- 22 criminal prosecution, I've raised the Fourth

- 1 Amendment concerns. We're starting to see now in
- courts what's called parallel construction where
- 3 individuals where information has come from
- 4 intelligence agencies' programs, is then passed on
- 5 to law enforcement, who then must create a
- 6 parallel trail for probable cause, but the actual
- <sup>7</sup> tip or initial indication of criminal activity
- 8 came from intelligence.
- 9 And it essentially covers the traces
- that this initially arose within FISA or within
- 11 Section 702, and I have increasing concerns,
- 12 certainly as a scholarly matter, about the growth
- of parallel construction.
- The client attorney privilege you had
- 15 already mentioned in the last panel. That
- continues to be, I think, an area of some concern,
- 17 not just because it's, not just in the post-
- indictment stage but in terms of all
- 19 communications with attorneys prior to and in the
- 20 context of the interception of content.
- The retention of encrypted
- 22 communications was not mentioned in the last

- 1 panel. All encrypted communications are retained
- 2 according to NSA documents, as well as the
- 3 technical barriers. If there are technical
- 4 barriers they also will simply keep the
- 5 information.
- The other aspects of this have to do
- 7 with multiple databases and CIA access, which I
- 8 was surprised you didn't have the General Counsel
- 9 of the CIA on the last panel. We now understand
- 10 from NSA documents that the CIA has a separate set
- of minimization procedures and also uses Section
- 12 702. And I think that's important to take a look
- 13 at what those procedures are, both the targeting
- 14 and the minimization.
- Finally, the fourth area that I'd just
- like to raise is the First Amendment concerns that
- 17 I have. As has been well-recognized in the
- 18 judicial system, First and Fourth Amendments often
- travel hand in hand, especially in national
- security when political matters are on the line.
- 21 And in this particular instance not
- only do we have a general First Amendment concern

- but we know that if individuals visit IP
- addresses, for instance, that have been associated
- 3 with particular targets, then their
- 4 correspondence, communication, emails, etcetera,
- 5 and other information is also retained.
- 6 What if that IP address is Al Jazeera,
- 7 let's say? What if that IP address happens to be
- 8 a media or a news site that's been associated with
- 9 a particular area of concern? Then I think there
- 10 are also First Amendment implications that follow
- 11 from that.
- So in conclusion I'd be happy to talk
- in more detail about each of these areas, the
- 14 targeting, the post-targeting analysis, the
- retention and dissemination of data, and the final
- 16 First Amendment concerns.
- MR. MEDINE: Thank you very much.
- 18 Mr. Jaffer.
- MS. DONOHUE: Thanks.
- MR. JAFFER: Thanks for the opportunity
- to appear before the Board.
- The ACLU's view, as you already know,

- is that Section 702 is unconstitutional. The
- 2 statute violates the Fourth Amendment because it
- 3 permits the government to conduct large scale,
- 4 warrantless surveillance of Americans'
- 5 international communications, communications in
- 6 which Americans have a reasonable expectation of
- <sup>7</sup> privacy.
- In our view, the statute would be
- 9 unconstitutional even if the warrant requirement
- didn't apply because the surveillance it
- 11 authorizes is unreasonable.
- 12 As I discuss in more length in my
- written testimony, the statute lacks any of the
- 14 indicia of reasonableness that the courts have
- 15 looked to in upholding other surveillance
- statutes, including Title III and FISA.
- But the point that I would like to
- 18 emphasize today is that even leaving the
- 19 constitutionality of the statute to the side, the
- 20 government is claiming and exercising more
- 21 authority than the statute actually gives it.
- I say that for three reasons. First,

- while the statute was intended to augment the
- 2 government's authority to acquire international
- 3 communications, the NSA's minimization and
- 4 targeting procedures give the government broad
- 5 authority to acquire purely domestic
- 6 communications as well.
- 7 That's because the NSA's procedures
- 8 allow the agency to presume that its targets are
- 9 foreign, absent specific evidence to the contrary,
- and because the procedures don't require the
- 11 government to destroy purely domestic
- 12 communications obtained inadvertently.
- 13 Instead, they permit the agency to
- 14 retain those communications when they're believed
- to contain foreign intelligence information, a
- 16 phrase that is defined very broadly.
- 17 Second, while the statute was intended
- 18 to give the government authority to acquire
- 19 communications to and from the government's
- targets, the NSA's procedures also permit the
- 21 government to obtain communications that are
- merely about those targets.

- 1 And that practice, in my view, finds no
- 2 support in the language of the statute or in the
- 3 statute's legislative history. But it's a
- 4 practice that has profound implications for
- 5 individual privacy.
- In order to identify the communications
- <sup>7</sup> that are about its targets, the government has to
- 8 inspect every communication. To endorse the
- 9 practice of about surveillance is to say that the
- 10 government can surveil literally everyone, or at
- the very least that it can surveil every
- communication in and out of the country.
- Finally, while Section 702 prohibits
- 14 reverse targeting, the NSA's procedures authorize
- the government to conduct so-called back door
- searches, searches of communications already
- 17 acquired under the FAA using selectors associated
- with particular known Americans.
- Given the absence of any meaningful
- limitation on the NSA's authority to acquire
- international communications under Section 702,
- 22 it's likely that the NSA's databases already

- include the communications of millions of
- 2 Americans.
- The NSA's procedures allow the NSA to
- 4 search through those communications and to conduct
- 5 the kind of targeted investigations that in other
- 6 contexts would be permitted only after a judicial
- <sup>7</sup> finding of probable cause.
- 8 And if I have thirty more seconds I
- 9 would like to make just one final point. Today
- we're focused on Section 702, but it's important
- to understand that Section 702 is merely one
- expression of a broader philosophy.
- 13 Yesterday the Washington Post reported
- that the NSA has built a surveillance system
- called MYSTIC capable of recording all of a
- country's phone calls, allowing the NSA to rewind
- and review conversations as long as a month after
- 18 they take place.
- MYSTIC is the logical endpoint of the
- arguments that the government is making here
- today. So the stakes and the conversation that
- we're having today are very high. It's very

- difficult to believe that democratic freedom would
- 2 survive for long in a system in which the
- 3 government has a permanent record of every
- 4 citizen's associations, movements, and
- 5 communications. Thank you.
- 6 MR. MEDINE: Thank you. Professor Ku.
- 7 MR. KU: Thank you, and thanks also for
- 8 the opportunity to appear before the Board today.
- 9 I just want to remind -- I have a
- different view I think from most of the panelists,
- and I apologize for not getting my remarks ahead
- 12 of time.
- I just want to remind the Board of two
- 14 under-emphasized points of constitutional law that
- 15 I think should frame our understanding of the U.S.
- 16 government's surveillance practices under Section
- 17 702.
- I mean first, it is important to
- 19 remember that Section 702 and FISA itself need to
- 20 be interpreted and understood against the history,
- and tradition, and the background of the
- President's broad, inherent executive power under

- 1 the Constitution to conduct electronic
- surveillance of foreign governments and foreign
- 3 agents, especially overseas.
- 4 Second, although we often speak loosely
- of the Fourth Amendment's limitations on this
- 6 presidential foreign surveillance power, it's
- 7 worth noting that courts have repeatedly upheld
- 8 wide-ranging, warrantless U.S. government
- 9 surveillance overseas, even of U.S. citizens.
- 10 So these two constitutional
- observations should frame any legal assessment of
- 12 Section 702 and FISA in general.
- 13 If you keep in mind the background and
- where we're coming from rather than where we are,
- 15 702 is not an ineffectual attempt to regulate
- lawless executive conduct, as the critics would
- 17 have it.
- In actuality, Section 702 almost
- 19 certainly requires more limitations than are
- 20 actually required by the Constitution and may
- 21 even, although I'm not taking that position, but
- 22 could in some circumstances encroach on the

- 1 President's foreign affairs powers to conduct
- <sup>2</sup> foreign intelligence activities.
- 3 So let me just briefly elaborate on
- 4 these two claims about constitutional law, which
- 5 I'm sure some folks might disagree with, but this
- is not a dispute that U.S. presidents have long
- 7 exercised the power under the Constitution to
- 8 conduct foreign intelligence, and this
- 9 uncontroversially flows from the President's role
- 10 as the chief of foreign affairs under the
- 11 Constitution. And almost every court considering
- 12 the question has concluded that the President, has
- 13 agreed that the President possesses an inherent
- 14 constitutional authority to conduct foreign
- surveillance. And this is undisputed by any
- 16 court.
- 17 In other words, there does not need to
- be statutory authorization for the President to
- 19 engage in foreign surveillance.
- 20 Prior to the enactment of FISA in 1978,
- 21 the executive branch claimed, and the courts did
- 22 not dispute that it possessed a broad

- 1 constitutional power to conduct surveillance for
- <sup>2</sup> foreign intelligence purposes, even inside the
- 3 United States and usually without a warrant.
- 4 So prior to the enactment of Section
- 5 702 and its predecessors, the executive branch
- 6 claimed a constitutional power to conduct
- 7 warrantless surveillance in foreign countries for
- 8 foreign intelligence purposes, whether or not that
- 9 surveillance included a U.S. citizen who was
- 10 physically overseas.
- So given this history I'd ask the Board
- 12 to keep in mind that Section 702 and its
- 13 predecessors placed more constraints on the
- executive branch's conduct of overseas foreign
- 15 intelligence gathering than has ever been imposed
- in prior, in the past.
- You might conclude that we need even
- more constraints, but we should not kid ourselves
- that existing constraints or even more constraints
- as proposed by some other folks, are consistent
- 21 with historical practice and tradition and moves
- us further toward constraints.

- 1 As to my second point, I do not believe
- the Fourth Amendment imposes limitations on
- foreign intelligence as strict as those employed,
- 4 imposed by Section 702. And let me just briefly
- 5 explain the two reasons why.
- 6 First, it is very clear the Fourth
- 7 Amendment does not apply to non-U.S. citizens and
- 8 when they are outside the territory of the United
- 9 States. And the Supreme Court confirmed this in
- 10 the 1990 decision of The United State versus
- 11 Verdugo-Urquidez.
- So foreign citizens or the surveillance
- of foreign citizens outside of the United States
- 14 is completely unconstrained by the Fourth
- 15 Amendment.
- 16 Second, the courts have confirmed that
- it's highly unlikely the Fourth Amendment's
- warrant requirement applies to surveillance of
- U.S. citizens when they're outside of the United
- 20 States, especially when the surveillance is
- 21 conducted for foreign intelligence purposes.
- No court in the United States has held

- that a warrant is required for a search of a U.S.
- 2 citizen when they are overseas if that search was
- 3 conducted for foreign intelligence purposes.
- 4 Some courts like the second circuit
- 5 have even held that no warrant is ever required
- for an overseas search, while others have relied
- on a broader foreign intelligence exception.
- 8 So there is further details here about
- <sup>9</sup> the reasonableness, and courts have generally
- interpreted the Fourth Amendment's reasonableness
- 11 requirement very generously in favor of the
- 12 government when conducting overseas searches.
- 13 Again, in light of this long history
- 14 and tradition of the United States conducting
- 15 essentially unsupervised foreign intelligence
- gathering without any statutory authority, this is
- actually the tradition in the U.S. system prior to
- 18 the enactment of FISA, then more recently Section
- 19 702.
- 20 So just to conclude, if you look at
- 21 Section 702, the government faces a complete ban
- on the intentional targeting of any United States

- 1 person reasonably believed to be outside of the
- 2 United States. And there are other procedural
- mechanisms, as you know about.
- But I don't believe that actually the
- 5 Fourth Amendment would actually require if there
- 6 was no Section 702, the Fourth Amendment would
- 7 require that the government could not
- 8 intentionally target a U.S. citizen overseas and
- <sup>9</sup> their communications.
- 10 So let me just conclude, I believe
- 11 Section 702 should be understood as a sensible
- compromise between privacy interests and the
- continuing need to conduct aggressive foreign
- 14 intelligence gathering. Congress has given its
- blessing to broad-based overseas surveillance that
- was already occurring pursuant to the President's
- inherent constitutional power.
- 18 Congress has now imposed limitations on
- those activities that go beyond what I believe the
- Fourth Amendment requires, but I think that's a
- small price to pay, and many of us agree, to
- 22 minimize privacy intrusions into Americans'

- 1 overseas communications. And the courts are
- involved to provide oversight.
- This is the type of political
- 4 compromise and cooperation between different
- 5 parties and different branches of government that
- 6 we always wish, we always say we want, and so I
- 7 think we should applaud it rather than condemn it.
- MR. MEDINE: Thank you.
- 9 Ms. Levinson-Waldman.
- MS. LEVINSON-WALDMAN: Thank you, of
- 11 course, for having me here. I have a few brief
- 12 comments and then I hope we'll also have a chance
- 13 at some point potentially to respond to comments
- that were made during the first panel or during
- 15 this panel.
- So I'm just going to focus briefly on
- two primary issues that are reflected in my
- written submission for now.
- 19 First, I know of course that the Board
- 20 is particularly interested in whether this about
- 21 collection complies with the letter or spirit of
- 22 Section 702. And based on the structure of the

- statute, we believe that it doesn't.
- 2 Briefly, there are two main
- 3 restrictions reflected in Section 702 on the
- 4 collection of communications. So that would be
- 5 the first, the acquisition cannot target U.S.
- 6 persons or persons known to be within the United
- 7 States. This is a geographic or nationality and
- 8 residence restriction.
- 9 And second, that the purpose of the
- 10 acquisition must be to acquire foreign
- intelligence information. And that's basically a
- 12 content restriction. What that means is that the
- content of the communications that can be picked
- up by electronic surveillance is regulated by the
- 15 foreign intelligence restriction, while the class
- of people who are subject to electronic
- 17 surveillance is regulated by the targeting
- 18 restrictions.
- When communications that are about a
- target are collected, we believe sort of the what
- and the who of the collection are conflated, and
- that that's contrary to the clear structure of the

- 1 statute.
- 2 And we know that the results of the
- 3 collection, our intention with the foreign
- 4 intelligence requirement of the statute, that is,
- 5 if communications that merely mention certain
- 6 targets are collected then we know that
- 7 significant quantities of communications that
- 8 contain no foreign intelligence information
- 9 whatsoever are acquired, which would appear to
- undermine the significant purpose requirement in
- 11 the statute.
- 12 And of course this has been confirmed
- in the 2011 FISC opinion that was referred to
- that's been declassified. We learn in fact that
- the NSA does acquire tens of thousands of wholly
- domestic communication in the course of conducting
- that about collection.
- 18 And so for those reasons we do think
- that the about collection is contrary to the
- meaning and the structure of the statute.
- And second, let me briefly mention one
- of the main contributions I think the Board can

- 1 make as part of its review, and I think that some
- of these questions came out in the first panel,
- which is to shed more light on some of the ways
- 4 that Section 702 is being used.
- It appears that what we don't know
- 6 about Section 702, certainly for the public, still
- outweighs or outnumbers what we do know.
- 8 Obviously there will always be things
- 9 that will be properly classified and kept secret,
- but it seems that there are many unanswered
- 11 questions that the Board is in a position to help
- 12 answer, help shed some light on.
- So those questions would include
- 14 certainly questions about how targets, and
- 15 selectors, and key words are used. Some of those
- were answered in the first panel, but I think some
- of those answers also raised more questions.
- There has been the suggestion, the
- strong suggestion from the 2011 minimization
- 20 procedures that all encrypted communications can
- be retained by virtue of their being encrypted,
- 22 and finding out if that, in fact, is true. And if

- 1 not, if the PCLOB can obtain and provide
- 2 additional information about that provision.
- And finally, and this is something that
- 4 Laura mentioned as well, that domestic
- 5 communications can be shared with law enforcement
- 6 agencies if they are reasonably believed to
- 7 contain evidence of a crime that has been, is
- being, or is about to be committed.
- In addition to raising, I think, a host
- of constitutional issues at the very least, and
- practical issues, one of the things that we don't
- 12 know is whether there are minimum standards for
- how severe, for instance, such a crime has to be
- in order to share this information, which of
- course has been collected without a warrant.
- So I hope that the answers to some of
- these questions also will come out during this
- 18 process. Again, thank you for the opportunity to
- 19 address the Board.
- MR. MEDINE: Great, thank you very much
- 21 for your opening statements. I'm going to ask you
- 22 some questions but any panelist should feel free,

- 1 I may ask them to a specific person but anyone
- should feel free to jump in.
- Professor Ku, you talked about the
- 4 limited applicability of the Fourth Amendment to
- overseas collections, and maybe, and suggesting
- 6 there's certainly no warrant requirement and a
- 7 very generous reasonableness standard.
- 8 One question I have is the collections
- 9 that we're talking about under 702 technically are
- 10 happening in the United States. That is, the
- 11 electronic communications provider is in the
- 12 United States while admittedly the target is
- outside of the United States. Is that a
- distinction that you think has any constitutional
- 15 significance?
- MR. KU: That's a great question. I
- mean I think it reflects the difficulty of this,
- which is the technology is changing our, the way
- 19 the Fourth Amendment was interpreted in some of
- these older cases, right.
- 21 So in the classic Fourth Amendment
- overseas case it was the guy searching through the

- 1 house or the apartment physically overseas of the
- U.S. citizen, or of the phone call that occurred
- on the foreign networks, right, in the foreign
- 4 country.
- 5 Here we have this kind of weird
- 6 situation where you have phone or communications
- 7 sort of transiting through the United States. And
- 8 I do agree that that might raise a harder Fourth
- 9 Amendment issue, but I do think that the larger
- thing to keep in mind is that the geography
- 11 matters because if there's a foreign person on the
- other side of the line, so to speak, that's I
- think in part the way the communication is an
- 14 international communication. It has different
- implications for that perspective.
- But I do agree that the Fourth
- 17 Amendment, the territorial aspect of the Fourth
- 18 Amendment would be less significant in that
- 19 context.
- I think the broader point though is
- that the courts have been very generous, both
- 22 domestically and internationally about

- 1 surveillance conducted for foreign intelligence
- 2 purposes.
- 3 So even, so the territorial distinction
- 4 was something that FISA created, because prior to
- 5 that I think FISA, the foreign intelligence
- 6 gathering occurred both domestically and
- <sup>7</sup> internationally, and the fact that it was for
- 8 foreign intelligence was what mattered.
- 9 FISA has created this sort of
- territorial division, which I think is becoming
- less important with the changes in the types of
- 12 communication we have.
- MS. DONOHUE: If I may add to that.
- 14 You know, Professor Ku brings up the exception for
- foreign intelligence gathering for purposes of
- surveillance. That's very different from the
- acquisition of information for purposes of
- 18 prosecution. And here courts have very clearly
- 19 ruled that even in cases of national security or
- domestic security, a warrant is required.
- This is U.S. vs. U.S. District Court, a
- 22 case handed down in 1972 in which there were three

- individuals conspiring to bomb the CIA. And the
- 2 court said that the executive branch, quoting
- 3 Justice Brownell (phonetic) and others said the
- 4 court -- the executive branch is not a
- 5 disinterested neutral observer and cannot be put
- in the position of having to determine whether a
- <sup>7</sup> search will be reasonable. They have to seek a
- 8 third opinion on that.
- In Katz as well in 1967, some of the
- justices in that case, Justice Byron White said,
- went beyond the decision and said basically we
- should not require a warrant procedure for the
- magistrate's judgement if the President of the
- United States, or his chief legal officer, the
- 15 Attorney General, has considered the requirements
- of national security and authorized electronic
- 17 surveillance as reasonable.
- And other justices responded very
- 19 angrily to that statement. Justice William
- 20 Brennan, Justice William O. Douglas, they pointed
- 21 out that there was a conflict of interest here.
- They said, look, neither the President nor the

- 1 Attorney General is a magistrate. In matters
- where they believe national security may be
- involved they are not detached, disinterested, and
- 4 neutral as a court where the magistrate must be.
- 5 The Foreign Intelligence Surveillance
- 6 Court of Review has also considered whether or not
- <sup>7</sup> information obtained from FISA warrants could be
- 8 used in the event of a prosecution.
- In the case that brought down the wall
- in 2002, the court looked to Title I of FISA where
- 11 probable cause had been established that an
- individual was a target, sorry, that the target
- was a foreign power or an agent of a foreign power
- 14 and said in that case you have this review that
- has gone on specific to that target by the Foreign
- 16 Intelligence Surveillance Court.
- In Section 702, individuals who may be
- brought up on criminal charges are not themselves
- the target of any investigation. No probable
- 20 cause has been established for their involvement
- as a foreign power or an agent of a foreign power.
- Instead, once the content of

- 1 conversations are obtained, then the government
- 2 may go through, analyze the information and look
- <sup>3</sup> for evidence of criminal activity, which can then
- 4 bring them into a courtroom to face criminal
- 5 charges, and at no point is this warrant
- 6 requirement, which the court has held for domestic
- <sup>7</sup> security cases. So here you have a U.S. person on
- $^{8}$  U.S. soil and the court has said in U.S. vs. U.S.
- 9 District Court, you have to have a warrant in that
- 10 situation.
- So to use the veneer of, well, we're
- 12 just collecting foreign intelligence and the
- executive branch has the right to do this under
- 14 Article II, yes, perhaps the executive branch can
- gather intelligence but if there are criminal
- penalties associated then you also need to meet
- the requirements of the Fourth Amendment for U.S.
- 18 persons.
- MR. MEDINE: I'd like to give Professor
- 20 Ku a chance to respond, although I can do it on my
- 21 next round.
- MR. KU: Okay. Well, I mean I'm not

- 1 going to go through all the cases. And I think
- that the way I understand this is the way you
- 3 think about this is the foreign intelligence
- 4 purpose, right. The foreign intelligence purpose
- 5 has been sort of an important part about whether
- there's an exception to the warrant requirement,
- or if there's a foreign intelligence purpose,
- 8 sometimes a primary purpose, or a purpose,
- 9 depending on how you define it. And then there's
- 10 the, whether that gives a question of
- 11 reasonableness, where there's legitimate
- 12 government interests that goes to the
- 13 reasonableness.
- 14 The reason I'm emphasizing the
- significance of the foreign intelligence purpose
- aspect of this and the territorial aspect of this
- is because I do think it's relevant to analysis.
- This is, in fact, what's going on here
- is a collision between our law enforcement and
- intelligence goals here, right. So the U.S.
- 21 government is gathering a lot of information for
- foreign intelligence purposes. It's also using

- 1 sometimes that information.
- 2 Some of that information is, although
- 3 not I think so far frequently, leaking into
- 4 criminal prosecutions. But if we start from the
- 5 perspective of foreign intelligence gathering,
- f right, this is Article II, this is where we start,
- 7 and this is something that's largely been
- 8 unregulated.
- 9 What's changed is that the nature of
- 10 communications have changed so that many of the
- 11 communications that were essentially gathered
- unsupervised for foreign intelligence purposes are
- being sort of routed in a different way so that it
- 14 falls within, technically speaking, what we might
- consider a different sort of format, which then
- 16 looks more like a classic Fourth Amendment case.
- But I think that the larger point I'm
- trying to emphasize here is that this is, there
- 19 are real Fourth Amendment issues here with respect
- 20 to law enforcement.
- But this is also about foreign
- 22 intelligence gathering. It's not just a total

- 1 sham. It's not as if the government is claiming
- 2 here that this whole thing is a scheme in order
- 3 just to gather information for criminal
- 4 prosecution.
- 5 Essentially they're both interests here
- 6 that are part of this analysis. And that legal
- 7 analysis with respect to foreign intelligence
- gathering needs to be considered and it should
- 9 frame our analysis of what's going on here as
- 10 well.
- MS. BRAND: Thank you. So it's a good
- 12 segue actually what you said, Professor Ku,
- because I want to understand, Professor Donohue,
- what you were saying, and I may not have taken the
- best notes, so forgive me.
- But walk me through the argument,
- because a second ago you said that you were making
- a distinction between collection for foreign
- intelligence purposes and I think you said
- 20 collection that was focused, was for the purpose
- of prosecution.
- So are you, is it your view that 702

- 1 collection is for the purpose of prosecution?
- MS. DONOHUE: It's one of the two
- 3 stated purposes for which the information can be
- 4 retained once it is collected. So it can be --
- MS. BRAND: But that's different. But
- 6 I'm asking about you said collected for the
- 7 purpose of prosecution, I thought. I mean what
- 8 is, I guess what I'm trying to get at is, is this
- 9 distinction between foreign intelligence purpose
- and criminal purpose relevant at the collection
- 11 stage only, or at all stages, or what? Help me
- understand what you're talking about.
- MS. DONOHUE: Yeah, so in the previous
- 14 panel Brad addressed this point. He mentioned
- that in the context of it's the moment at which
- the information's obtained that a search occurs,
- 17 right.
- 18 So if we do our Fourth Amendment
- analysis at that point, then the moment at which
- you're obtaining the wiretap evidence is the
- search, at which point you would require a warrant
- <sup>22</sup> under these.

- And I believe Professor Ku's point is,
- 2 no, you don't need a warrant if it's for foreign
- 3 intelligence purposes at the moment you acquire
- 4 the information with the international nexus to
- 5 it. And he's citing Verdugo-Urquidez where there
- 6 was no nexus to the United States and a search
- 7 occurred overseas.
- The problem is in the case, and this
- 9 gets back to my first point, which I apologize if
- 10 I spoke too quickly at the beginning of the panel,
- which is with regard to the targeting. If it is
- 12 not just information to or from the target, or
- held by the target, but any information about or
- 14 relating to the target.
- And here, it's interesting, I was a
- little bit confused by the earlier panel because
- according to the actual documents the NSA has
- 18 released, the NSA can actually use computer
- 19 selection terms and other information such as
- words, or phrases, or discriminators to scan
- 21 content.
- So if it can collect all of the

- international communications and then scan the
- 2 content of those communications, then I would
- 3 argue that is a search for purposes of the Fourth
- 4 Amendment at the point of collection.
- MS. BRAND: But let me get to this
- 6 distinction though between foreign intelligence
- and a criminal purpose, because 702 requires not
- 8 only that the collection be a non-U.S. person
- 9 abroad but also that there be a foreign
- intelligence purpose, that the information be
- 11 reasonably believed to be, to collect foreign
- 12 intelligence. I'm not quoting the statute.
- But doesn't that statutory requirement
- 14 suggest that it has to be for a foreign
- intelligence purpose? And it might also then
- 16 collect evidence of a crime, which then there are
- 17 procedures for what to do with that information.
- But it seems like you're suggesting
- 19 that you think that the collection itself is for a
- criminal purpose, and that's what sort of piqued
- 21 my interest and I wanted to understand what you
- were saying there.

- MS. DONOHUE: Sure. So to push on this
- a little bit, under FISA to be a foreign power one
- is not a U.S. person, right, one is a foreign
- 4 power or an agent of a foreign power. Not all of
- 5 the agents of a foreign power require criminal
- 6 showings, but many of them do.
- 7 So to say that this is purely a foreign
- 8 intelligence purpose when an individual can be
- <sup>9</sup> targeted based on being either a foreign power or
- an agent of a foreign power, in which case there
- is criminal activity involved and there may be the
- 12 element of criminality from the outset. So it's
- 13 not as though criminality is not an aspect of the
- 14 foreign intelligence gathering generally.
- MS. BRAND: Professor Ku, do you have
- 16 -- Jameel, it looks like you wanted to respond.
- MR. JAFFER: Well, I was just going to
- 18 speak to the foreign intelligence exception more
- 19 generally, if you want to pursue this.
- MS. BRAND: Go ahead. Go ahead.
- MR. JAFFER: Well, so I just want to
- 22 caution the Board about starting from the premise

- that there is in fact a foreign intelligence
- 2 exception to the warrant requirement. The cases
- in which courts have held that there is such an
- 4 exception predate FISA. There's arguably one
- 5 exception to that, but the vast majority of them
- 6 predate FISA.
- 7 And so their rationale has been
- 8 undermined by practice under FISA over the last
- 9 thirty-five years. The rationale for those cases
- was in large part that the courts might not be
- 11 capable of overseeing collection or surveillance
- 12 for foreign intelligence purposes. But the courts
- have been doing precisely that now since 1978.
- But even if you accept that there is in
- 15 fact a foreign intelligence exception to the
- warrant requirement, you have to ask the question
- of how broad that exception is.
- And all of those cases, those pre-FISA
- 19 cases, involve cases involved situations in which
- there was probable cause to believe that the
- 21 target was a foreign agent, the surveillance was
- 22 approved personally by the President or the

- 1 Attorney General, and the primary purpose of the
- 2 surveillance was to gather foreign intelligence
- 3 information.
- 4 And Section 702 doesn't include any of
- 5 those requirements. So no court has ever approved
- a foreign intelligence exception to the warrant
- 7 requirement that is broad enough to read Section
- 8 702. Section 702 is a broader statute than any
- 9 foreign intelligence exception recognized so far
- 10 would allow.
- I think that it may also be important
- 12 to emphasize that concluding that the warrant
- 13 requirement applies doesn't mean that the
- 14 government has to get a warrant before surveilling
- 15 legitimate foreign targets. It doesn't mean that
- in order to surveil, you know, some suspected
- terrorist outside the United States the government
- necessarily needs to get a warrant.
- But at the very least it means that the
- government needs to take reasonable measures to
- 21 avoid acquiring Americans' communications without
- 22 warrants.

- 1 It means it has to not acquire them in
- the first place where it cannot acquire them.
- When it does acquire them, it has to
- 4 destroy the communications that it acquires
- 5 relating to U.S. persons.
- 6 And when in narrow exceptions it
- 7 retains those communications, there should be a
- 8 back-end warrant requirement so the government
- 9 doesn't access Americans' communications without a
- warrant. That's what compliance with the warrant
- 11 clause would mean.
- MR. MEDINE: Ms. Cook.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: So thank you all for
- 14 coming. I find these panels to be incredibly
- helpful and informative.
- Ms. Donohue, I would like to --
- 17 Professor Donohue, I apologize, I'd like to
- 18 follow-up on something you mentioned at the very
- end of your opening remarks, and that's your
- 20 position that 702 raises First Amendment concerns.
- I think it's clear from my previous
- 22 separate statement on our 215 report that I don't

- 1 necessarily approach the First Amendment analysis
- the same way, but what I would find helpful from
- you is if you could just describe your approach to
- 4 when the First Amendment would be implicated, when
- 5 concerns arise, and when something would be
- 6 unconstitutional based on First Amendment
- 7 concerns.
- 8 So for example, would a traditional
- 9 wiretap raise First Amendment concerns, and would
- 10 it potentially be unconstitutional under First
- 11 Amendment concerns?
- Would a traditional grand jury subpoena
- 13 for bank records or credit card statements that
- could reveal payments to lawyers or payments to
- 15 various charities or associations, would that
- raise First Amendment concerns? Would it be
- unconstitutional under the First Amendment?
- So if you could just walk me through on
- the spectrum where you're finding concerns and
- where you're finding violations.
- MS. DONOHUE: Sure. And just to return
- back to Ms. Brand's point, I agree with Jameel on

- 1 the analysis about what point it would kick in for
- a warrant requirement is the point at which it's
- 3 either about the information, because I feel like
- 4 I didn't quite answer what you were asking me and
- 5 I want to make sure that I do, I answer it.
- It's the point at which you're getting
- 7 information about that particular individual,
- 8 which is a different target, and then you analyze
- 9 that information, then at that point I would
- 10 believe that the Fourth Amendment warrant
- 11 requirement would apply.
- Okay, so in response to the First
- 13 Amendment question, so the courts have recognized
- 14 that there is a close link between the First and
- the Fourth Amendment. And I frequently find
- whether it's in remote biometric identification
- 17 systems in view of public space and facial
- 18 identification, you know, that there is a First
- 19 Amendment context there as well. So it tends to
- 20 be in the shadows in the room.
- In this particular context, the way
- that I see it present is with regard to the target

- 1 that is in the statute. It's very clear that the
- 2 target cannot be selected --
- MS. COLLINS COOK: I'm sorry, can you
- 4 actually answer the question that I had posed,
- which was, for example, starting with a
- 6 traditional --
- 7 MS. DONOHUE: Oh, yeah, so I do not see
- 8 a traditional wiretap as implicating First
- 9 Amendment. I do not see --
- MS. COLLINS COOK: Why?
- MS. DONOHUE: Because --
- MS. COLLINS COOK: Even though it
- 13 could, for example, reveal the fact that I belong
- 14 to the ACLU, or I have called my attorney, or I'm
- discussing, you know, private contents and
- 16 communications. So why not?
- MS. DONOHUE: Because there's a
- balancing that occurs with regard to the element,
- in this case of probable cause that you have
- 20 committed, are committing, or are about to commit
- 21 a crime under Title III, in which case having gone
- before a neutral, disinterested magistrate, a law

- enforcement officer says, oh, no, I suspect that
- 2 Professor Donohue is engaged in this bad activity.
- 3 And I think that that balancing test basically
- 4 takes that situation out of a First Amendment
- 5 context.
- 6 MS. COLLINS COOK: So let's take a
- <sup>7</sup> grand jury, and then a pen register trap and
- 8 trace. So a pen register trap trace, there's
- <sup>9</sup> definitely no determination, no probable cause.
- 10 So does a traditional pen register trap trace,
- which would reveal potential phone calls to the
- 12 ACLU, to my lawyer, very private, the existence of
- 13 potentially private conversations, does that
- violate the First Amendment?
- MS. DONOHUE: Again, with prior
- judicial approval and review, no.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: Okay. So let's take
- a grand jury subpoena which can be issued by a
- 19 prosecutor. So in the absence of beforehand
- 20 judicial review, does that violate the First
- 21 Amendment?
- MS. DONOHUE: No. I would say --

MS. COLLINS COOK: So what's the factor 3 MS. DONOHUE: Well, it's the same for 4 administrative warrants, I would say in the case of administrative warrants. Here's where the tipping point is for me with PRTT, let's take 6 7 Section 215 as kind of a bulk metadata collection program, or Section, what is it, 402, right, for 9 these bulk collections of pen register trap and 10 trace type information. 11 When you have the bulk collection of information in a way that changes the political 12 13 discourse in society, then I think you have a 14 First Amendment question that arises. 15 MS. COLLINS COOK: Okay. So is if 16 there is a perception that there is a change in 17 political discourse, then you have a concern about 18 a First Amendment? It's not necessarily prior 19 judicial review, particularized probable cause? 20 I'm just struggling to understand, you 21 know, at what point there's a First Amendment

implication and at what point there's a First

- 1 Amendment violation, because to me, I think it's a
- bit of a sea change to look at either traditional
- or really these FISA authorities as violating the
- 4 First Amendment. I do think that that's a fairly
- 5 novel approach.
- 6 MR. JAFFER: But to be fair -- to be
- <sup>7</sup> fair, the distinction between individualized
- 8 surveillance and bulk surveillance is also a bit
- 9 of a sea change. And so I think the question is
- 10 whether the bulk surveillance, the fact that the
- 11 government is now engaged in bulk surveillance, I
- mean I understand that there's some dispute over
- the vocabulary, but the fact that the government
- is engaged in bulk collection or bulk acquisition
- of this information makes the First Amendment
- 16 relevant in a way that it perhaps wasn't relevant
- in the context of individualized surveillance of
- 18 the kinds that you were describing.
- I mean I think that your question
- 20 perhaps goes more broadly to the question of
- incidental overhears, you know. When the
- government defends Section 702, one of the

- 1 government's defenses is that all of this
- information is, about Americans is overheard
- 3 incidentally.
- 4 You know, I go into this in a little
- more detail in my written submission, but I don't
- 6 think it's fair to call this kind of collection
- <sup>7</sup> incidental in any conventional use of the term.
- 8 The collection of Americans' information is
- 9 entirely foreseeable, and in fact, it was the
- purpose of the statute.
- 11 If you look at the statements that
- 12 administration, then Bush administration officials
- made to justify the statute or to advocate for the
- 14 statute, they were quite forthright about the
- 15 purpose of the statute. And the purpose in their
- view was to give the government broader authority
- 17 to collect information, collect communications
- between people outside the United States, and
- 19 people inside the United States.
- 20 And obviously there's no illegitimacy
- to the government's interest in collecting those
- 22 communications. The question is whether there are

- 1 sufficient safeguards in place, but that's why I
- 2 say that incidental is probably the wrong word.
- But if the government is relying on the
- 4 incidental overhear cases from the Fourth
- 5 Amendment context, those cases were, involved very
- 6 different contexts. Those were cases in which the
- <sup>7</sup> surveillance was individualized. It was based on
- 8 a probable cause warrant.
- The scale of the surveillance of the
- incidental collection was much different. And the
- 11 fact that there was judicial oversight at the
- 12 front-end provided a kind of protection for
- incidentally overheard people that doesn't exist
- under a statute like 702.
- MR. MEDINE: Let's give Jim the chance
- to ask some questions, then we can come around.
- MS. DONOHUE: Okay.
- MR. DEMPSEY: Thanks. Thanks to the
- <sup>19</sup> witnesses.
- 20 A question for Jameel and for Rachel on
- the abouts. What actually is, quoting the words
- of the statute, what is the strongest textual

- 1 argument against about surveillance?
- 2 Because the statute says the targeting
- of persons, never really refers to even the
- 4 collection of communications or interception,
- 5 etcetera, so if you're collecting something about
- 6 somebody, isn't that almost paradigmatically
- 7 targeting the person? Where's the text?
- 8 MS. LEVINSON-WALDMAN: I mean I think
- 9 one of the -- right, there's obviously ambiguity
- in the statute in part, and this is one the things
- that I mentioned in the written submission is that
- 12 target isn't defined.
- 13 And I have to say some of the answers
- in the first panel, which answered some questions
- about target and selectors, I think also opened up
- 16 new questions.
- I do think the strongest statutory
- argument, literally looking at the language, is
- what the statute talks about.
- So it says here, literally just looking
- 21 at 1881 A, subpart A, Attorney General and
- 22 Director of National Intelligence may authorize

- jointly the targeting of persons reasonably
- believed to be outside the United States to
- 3 acquire foreign intelligence information.
- 4 So as I say, you sort of see
- 5 implicitly, but I think you do see implicitly
- 6 these two sort of halves of the targeting
- 7 requirement, the foreign intelligence requirement
- and this kind of nationality and geographic
- 9 restriction, and that when what you're doing is
- 10 collecting about communications, what you're doing
- is kind of adding together, you're kind of
- 12 conflating, you're morphing together these
- different parts of the statute so that the
- targeting has usually been literally thinking
- about the facility that's being used --
- MR. DEMPSEY: Excuse me. The
- government has determined that a person is outside
- the United States and that collecting information
- about that person will yield foreign intelligence.
- MS. LEVINSON-WALDMAN: Well, but I
- think that may be what's suggested by the about
- 22 collection, but I think the foreign intelligence

- determination is a separate one, right.
- The government identifies these targets
- or selectors which have generally been to or from.
- 4 And in fact we know, especially from Judge Bates's
- 5 opinion that thousands, tens of thousands of
- 6 communications are collected using the about
- <sup>7</sup> targeting, the about collection, that are wholly
- 8 domestic, that have no foreign intelligence value,
- <sup>9</sup> which I think undermines an argument that there
- 10 has been some determination of foreign
- intelligence value there, because to some extent
- 12 the results are sort of speaking for themselves.
- MR. DEMPSEY: Because then you would be
- 14 questioning the legitimacy of the to and froms
- because they only do abouts about people that they
- also do to and froms, so you can't say that the
- 17 foreign intelligence determination of the abouts
- is illegitimate because then you call into
- 19 question the to and from.
- MS. LEVINSON-WALDMAN: Well, but I
- think the to and from is pretty clearly
- 22 contemplated by the statute, right? You target a

- 1 person, you are trying to find communications to
- or from them, understanding that those will have
- <sup>3</sup> foreign intelligence value.
- 4 MR. DEMPSEY: Let me go to Jameel.
- 5 Jameel, what is the best textual argument against
- 6 abouts?
- 7 MR. JAFFER: Right. Well, let me first
- 8 I think agree with what I think Rachel was saying
- 9 at the outset, which is that the statute I don't
- 10 think explicitly forecloses about surveillance or
- 11 explicitly authorizes about surveillance.
- But I think a fair assessment of the
- 13 statutory structure and some of the statutory text
- 14 leads to the conclusion that about surveillance
- was not contemplated by Congress. And I'll answer
- 16 your question.
- MR. DEMPSEY: The text, yeah.
- 18 MR. JAFFER: So here are a few aspects
- of the statute that I think show that Congress was
- 20 contemplating, that the target would, himself or
- 21 herself, be the person whose communications were
- 22 acquired.

- 1 First, a definition of electronic
- 2 surveillance. It says the acquisition of the
- 3 contents of any wire --
- 4 MR. DEMPSEY: This is not electronic
- 5 surveillance. 702 explicitly does not cover
- 6 electronic surveillance.
- 7 MR. JAFFER: Well, I think that the
- point I'm making is relevant nonetheless.
- 9 MR. DEMPSEY: Electronic surveillance
- definition is irrelevant to 702. It is not -- 702
- does not regulate electronic surveillance.
- MR. JAFFER: I think the point that I'm
- trying to make is just that the entire statutory
- scheme, both FISA and the FAA, contemplate that
- the person who is the target will be the person
- whose communications are actually acquired.
- 17 If you look at the definition of
- aggrieved person, for example, which does apply in
- 19 the FAA context, aggrieved person to implicitly
- 20 contemplates that the person who will be raising
- the claim as an aggrieved person is a person whose
- 22 communications are actually acquired.

- 1 And in fact, if you conclude otherwise
- what you are concluding is that the target would
- 3 be an aggrieved person even if his or her
- 4 communications weren't acquired, which I think is
- a nonsensical conclusion and one that the
- 6 government itself would reject.
- 7 But I think it follows from accepting
- 8 that about surveillance is contemplated by the
- 9 statute.
- 10 And if I could just make a sort of
- 11 broader point about about surveillance, we have
- sort of combed through the legislative history for
- discussions of this kind of surveillance, and it's
- possible we overlooked something, but we have not
- found any exchange in the legislative history
- around the FAA that suggests that Congress was
- 17 contemplating about surveillance.
- To the contrary, when people discuss,
- when legislators discuss the kind of surveillance
- that would take place under the statute, they
- 21 discuss surveillance of the target.
- 22 And even on the government panel this

- 1 morning one of the panelists used the example, bad
- guy at Google.com, you know, which again is
- 3 suggesting that the surveillance that's going on
- 4 is of the target himself or herself.
- 5 And in defending the statute before the
- 6 Supreme Court, the Solicitor General and the
- Justice Department more generally characterized
- 8 the statute as one that allowed the government to
- 9 collect targets' communications.
- So you know, I think that this is an
- entirely a foreign concept, foreign to the
- 12 legislative history and foreign to the text of the
- 13 statute.
- MR. MEDINE: Thank you. Judge Wald.
- MS. WALD: Let me pick up on the about
- thing and pose one of those terrible
- 17 hypotheticals. If you had a to and from, you had
- a targeted, a legitimately targeted person and in
- the process of collecting information you got, you
- 20 came across this email between, I'll be facetious
- a bit, the grandmother of one of them to the
- grandmother of somebody else saying something

- along the lines of, my grandson was talking to me
- and he was telling me all about this wonderful
- 3 service he did by plotting, I'm using an extreme,
- 4 plotting to blow up a facility kind of thing, I
- 5 mean how would you take care of that situation
- 6 where you had it between two people who are not
- <sup>7</sup> the to and froms? You wouldn't ignore it, would
- 8 you, or would you? I mean how would you handle
- 9 that if you had no abouts?
- MS. DONOHUE: I'm not sure whom that's
- 11 directed to.
- MS. WALD: I don't care.
- MR. MEDINE: Who would you like it
- 14 directed to?
- MS. WALD: What?
- MR. MEDINE: Who are you asking?
- MS. WALD: Well, the two people who've
- talked about what about abouts, Mr. Jaffer and
- 19 Ms. Levinson-Waldman, I think.
- MR. JAFFER: Well, I'm not a hundred
- 21 percent sure I understand the question. The
- question is, you know, if you were conducting

- 1 about surveillance and you come across evidence of
- a terrorist plot, do you really expect them to
- 3 ignore it? Then no, I don't, you know.
- But that's like asking, you know, if
- 5 the government breaks into a home
- 6 unconstitutionally and finds evidence of a
- 7 terrorist plot, do I expect them to ignore it? I
- 8 don't.
- 9 But we still need to ask the question
- what are the proper limits on the government's
- 11 surveillance authority in the first place, and I
- think that we need to draw those limits in a way
- that's consistent with the Constitution.
- I'm not sure that I'm answering your
- <sup>15</sup> question.
- MS. WALD: Well, you are except that
- 17 I'm puzzled, too. I'm not sure I know the answer
- where, as I say, you had -- maybe that's an
- 19 extreme example about where they have a plot, but
- where there's actually some foreign intelligence
- 21 information which even everybody would agree had
- some relevance to a legitimately targeted

- individual, and it's right there, and it's picked
- 2 up.
- MS. LEVINSON-WALDMAN: Then I think I
- 4 would echo Jameel's points to some extent and sort
- of elaborate to say that I do think that there are
- 6 always hypotheticals, presumably for any of these
- 7 programs, for Section 702, for Section 215, for
- 8 other collection programs that are going on where
- 9 there could be some piece of information out there
- that might be useful that would be collected by a
- program.
- 12 I think it's dangerous to build
- surveillance programs and to think about the
- 14 constitutionality and the practicality based on
- 15 hypotheticals, and especially when we know that
- there is significant over-collection that occurs
- and significant collection of Americans'
- 18 communications.
- I think the hypotheticals are, may need
- to be thought about, but I don't think that they
- 21 can drive how we think about the constitutionality
- 22 and the statutory implications of the collection.

MS. WALD: In other words, you or anybody over there wouldn't consider if that 3 happened, some other means that the government 4 might have to take that about information and go to somebody, to some authority and say can we keep this, can we use this, etcetera, etcetera? 6 7 MS. DONOHUE: So what I'm a little bit 8 confused about, and I did hear the previous panel 9 say, oh, well, there would be all sorts of 10 procedural implications if we had to return to a 11 judge on the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court to get approval to do further monitoring. 12 13 What I'm a little bit confused about is if that information was appropriately obtained in 14 15 the first place and it indicates that other people 16 are implicated, why they wouldn't go back for a 17 Title I electronic search and they would have what 18 they need for that? MS. WALD: Well, if it's two 19 20 grandmothers, they're probably not -- they're just 21 chatting. They're probably innocent. All I'm 22 saying is I guess the only reason I raised it is

- 1 I'm trying myself to figure out are there not some
- 2 gray areas here, and wondering if you had any
- 3 solutions short of about authority which you find
- 4 is too broad, and completely ignoring it?
- 5 But let me not use up my whole five
- 6 minutes. Thank you.
- 7 I did want to ask you about, as you
- 8 know, the President's review commission said they
- 9 wanted to see a warrant, an actual, go get a
- warrant for probable cause before you could search
- the data using a U.S. person indicator.
- My question to you is, and we've heard
- some reasons why they think that's very onerous,
- including the fact that the President's review
- 15 commission's recommendation was it had to be a
- probable cause warrant that the person was about
- to commit something, do bodily injury, or about to
- 18 commit some terrorism crime.
- My question to you is if you think
- there are legitimate, and you do, problems under
- the Fourth Amendment with using U.S. person
- 22 indicators to surveil the PRISM data, would

- 1 anything short of a probable cause warrant such as
- they recommended satisfy you, i.e., I'm just
- 3 throwing this out, you know, having, going back
- 4 to, say, to the FISA court and having them look at
- 5 it to see if it, either post or pre, before they
- 6 used it, approving this so-called, you know,
- <sup>7</sup> selector, etcetera, that was in fact a reasonable
- 8 cause to believe that the person had information
- 9 or didn't have information?
- 10 MR. JAFFER: I don't think that would
- 11 be sufficient. I think that you need a warrant at
- 12 the back-end and --
- MS. WALD: But what kind of a warrant
- 14 warrants --
- MR. JAFFER: A warrant based on
- 16 probable cause and --
- MS. WALD: Probable cause of what?
- MR. JAFFER: Well, so I think it could
- be foreign intelligence probable cause, although I
- hope that the panel will, that the Board will
- think about the scope of the definition, the
- definitions of foreign agent, foreign power, and

- 1 foreign intelligence information.
- But I think that foreign intelligence
- 3 probable cause could be sufficient for that
- 4 particular process, or obviously criminal probable
- 5 cause.
- 6 But I also just want to say that I
- 7 don't think back-end procedures alone are enough,
- 8 no matter how strong they are. And I think that,
- 9 you know, I know that the Board can't talk about
- the Washington Post report from yesterday, but if
- 11 you just take it as a kind of hypothetical, you
- 12 know, if you accept that back-end procedures are
- enough and that we'll focus solely on the
- protections on searching, and dissemination, and
- analysis of information in the government's hands,
- there's nothing to prevent the government from
- 17 recording every phone call, copying every email,
- creating a permanent record of everybody's
- movements, associations, and communications. And
- the only question we'll be asking is when can the
- 21 government access it.
- But the creation of that kind of

- 1 massive database will have huge implications for
- the way that ordinary people operate in society,
- 3 both the way that they interact with one another
- 4 and the way that they interact with their
- 5 government.
- 6 People who believe that the government
- <sup>7</sup> is surveilling every movement and every
- 8 communication, believe justifiably that it's doing
- 9 it, will act differently. They won't go to
- controversial websites and they won't engage in
- 11 controversial communications that are necessary
- 12 for any democracy.
- MS. WALD: I'll save, I know my time is
- up. I'll wait for the next round. I have another
- <sup>15</sup> question.
- MR. MEDINE: I want to go back to that
- back-end searching, basically the U.S. person
- searches, and this really is two questions.
- One is the government panel asserts
- that this is lawfully obtained information and
- therefore should be permissibly used without any
- 22 further Fourth Amendment implications. And why

- that's not a persuasive argument.
- 2 And then two, if it's not persuasive,
- 3 what is the procedure that you envision? And
- 4 again, I think it's different from Professor
- 5 Donohue where you're using that U.S. person
- 6 information to get more information. You're just
- 7 saying let's use the information we've already
- 8 collected under some other, under authority for,
- 9 say, criminal purposes or foreign intelligence
- 10 purposes.
- So I guess it's two parts. Why isn't
- is already legally usable? And if it's not, what
- 13 procedure would you apply to access it? And
- that's to any panelists.
- MS. DONOHUE: So as a statutory matter
- 16 I would come back to the burden of proof with
- 17 regard to whether that information that's being
- collected on targets, they are indeed U.S. persons
- or non-U.S. persons and located outside the United
- 20 States.
- So here the statute is silent, and I
- share Mr. Dempsey's textual analysis of the about

- 1 question. I think the statute is silent there as
- well. But in regard that the statute does say
- where you know that somebody is a U.S. person, you
- 4 know, you have Sections 703 and 704 that you have
- 5 to operate under.
- 6 MR. MEDINE: Again, we're not targeting
- 7 the U.S. person, we're targeting a non-U.S.
- 8 person, and Congress clearly knew that at the
- 9 other end of that phone call could be a U.S.
- 10 person and still authorized that kind of
- 11 collection without a warrant.
- 12 And the question is, why isn't that
- sufficient to then say, okay, this information was
- lawfully collected, now we can do searches based
- 15 on it?
- MS. DONOHUE: Because it isn't
- certain that the person on whom you're collecting
- the information really is a non-U.S. person. So
- the burden of proof on the NSA is to say, to
- establish that this individual is a non-U.S.
- 21 person.
- But in fact, so the assumption that all

- the collection that's going on currently is of
- 2 non-U.S. persons I think is an erroneous one. And
- it's one -- and the reason why I think it's
- 4 erroneous is because the NSA is under no
- 5 obligation to check and see and make sure that
- 6 that individual is not a U.S. person.
- 7 To the contrary, they have in their
- 8 documents they say, well, they may check these
- 9 databases, they may check these other databases.
- 10 There's no obligation that they do so.
- Mr. De in the previous panel referred
- 12 to the totality of the circumstances type tests
- that say they have two strikes against, four
- 14 strikes for, they look at everything. There is
- nothing that obliges them to then go back and dig
- up more information to find out in that particular
- 17 circumstance.
- And not only that, but actually if you
- 19 look at the requirements for what is required to
- 20 positively identify, to conclusively determine it
- in the minimization procedures, the bar is
- 22 actually significantly high.

- 1 It means that you know their name, you
- 2 know their title, your know their address, you
- 3 know their personally identifiable information in
- 4 the context of activities conducted by that person
- 5 that are related to that particular person. A
- for reference to a brand name, manufacturer's name,
- Monroe Doctrine, etcetera, that's not sufficient.
- 8 So not only are they under no
- 9 obligation to establish that but in order to
- 10 establish it, it's a very high bar. So it's not
- 11 clear to me that that information is lawfully
- 12 collected in the first place.
- MR. MEDINE: Ms. Levinson-Waldman, do
- 14 you want to weigh in on that?
- 15 MS. LEVINSON-WALDMAN: I think the
- other thing I was going to add, if I'm
- understanding the question correctly about why is
- 18 it not okay to do searches on information that's
- been lawfully collected, I think there's also an
- element of bootstrapping.
- So that it was lawfully collected for a
- 22 purpose, for a foreign intelligence purpose, and

- that you're right, of course Congress knew that
- U.S. person information was going to be
- incidentally collected through that process, but
- 4 then there are these minimization procedures.
- 5 And so kind of almost bypassing those
- 6 procedures and allowing that body of information
- 7 to be collected without meeting a fairly high bar,
- 8 some kind of probable cause warrant seems like
- 9 kind of going back and bootstrapping your way into
- that information in a way that is very different
- 11 from searches of, I think, any other, almost any
- 12 other body of lawfully collected information,
- because the standard for which it's obtained, that
- 14 foreign intelligence standard and purpose is so
- different.
- MR. JAFFER: I mean I actually think
- there are two kinds of bootstrapping. The first
- is pointing to the fact that foreigners outside
- 19 the United States lack Fourth Amendment rights in
- order to collect huge volumes of communications to
- which Americans are a party.
- 22 And then the other is pointing to the

- 1 foreign intelligence purpose to gather information
- which is then later used in criminal prosecutions.
- 3 So that's to state the problem. It's not a
- 4 solution to the problem, but I think that's where
- 5 the concern comes from.
- 6 MR. MEDINE: Professor Ku.
- 7 MR. KU: If I could just add, I mean
- 8 I'm not sure that's bootstrapping. I think that's
- 9 sort of the purpose, right. The purpose is --
- 10 it's not that they're not also collecting it for
- 11 foreign intelligence purposes.
- 12 It's also true that if in the old days
- they came across a letter from an American person
- to a foreign person, it seems unlikely to me that
- 15 because an American sent the letter that means
- they can't -- but they lawfully obtained the
- 17 letter, it's unclear to me why they couldn't use
- 18 that letter.
- And so I'm a little, possibly it's
- 20 bootstrapping, but it's, there's a long history of
- 21 going after foreigners and doing foreign
- 22 surveillance.

I'm not sure that -- I think the only difference I think is technology does make it 3 easier for it to flip back into the states, but 4 I'm not sure that fundamentally this is a really different thing. 6 MR. MEDINE: Thank you. Ms. Brand. MS. BRAND: Thank you. Well, it seems 8 like there are some fundamentally opposing world 9 views about the Fourth Amendment on the panel, and 10 I want to, I mean this Board is not going to move 11 Fourth Amendment law. So I want to get to what you think the law is and what you think the law 12 13 should be, because I think there might be some conflation of those two things going on here. 14 15 First of all, Professor Ku, thank you 16 for submitting your comments this morning, your 17 written comments. I haven't had a chance to read 18 them yet so I just want to ask you a question to 19 make sure I understand where you're coming from. 20 You talk about inherent executive 21 authority to conduct surveillance abroad or even 22 of non-U.S. persons abroad. In your view, does

- 1 that inherent executive power operate alongside
- the Fourth Amendment, or irrespective of the
- Fourth Amendment, or does that create an exception
- 4 to the Fourth Amendment?
- MR. KU: Right, no, I don't think it
- 6 creates an exception to the Fourth Amendment. It
- operates within the constraints, whatever they
- 8 might be, of the Fourth Amendment.
- 9 But I would like to point out that
- 10 historically this -- I mean so just to clarify.
- 11 The reason I raise this, it goes to the point that
- 12 historically the U.S. government as operated
- without statutory authority to conduct foreign
- 14 surveillance. It's been, the power was granted,
- was thought of as coming from the Constitution.
- So the statutory scheme has not been
- thought of as necessary to authorize the type of
- intelligence gathering that's going on.
- Now the Fourth Amendment does apply,
- 20 but as I also emphasized, it hasn't always
- 21 applied. It didn't originally was thought of to
- 22 apply at all, even to U.S. citizens overseas, but

- 1 I think we understand that the courts have come
- around to view that it does apply to U.S. citizens
- overseas. But I think it still has a limited
- 4 impact compared to the way it applies for purely
- 5 domestic searches. So that's how I would analyze
- 6 that.
- 7 MS. BRAND: And how does it apply to
- 9 purely domestic searches where there's a purpose
- <sup>9</sup> of foreign intelligence gathering?
- MR. KU: Well, I think that -- well,
- 11 here I think that, you know, it does. The Fourth
- 12 Amendment has been interpreted in recent cases to
- be a much more robust protection for searches
- domestically, although even in some of those
- cases, right, a warrant has not been required or
- the exception to the warrant requirement has been
- found for foreign intelligence purposes. So it
- 18 still continues to exist within the domestic
- 19 sphere.
- I would say that for me, at least my
- 21 understanding is a lot of this has been supplanted
- 22 by the FISA system. The rise of the FISA system

- 1 has to some degree made the Fourth Amendment
- analysis a little bit less onerous because what's
- been happening is that everything's been funneled
- 4 through the FISA system and the challenges to the
- 5 FISA system has not been sort of as robust.
- I think if we hadn't had FISA maybe
- 7 we'd have had more cases that would have clarified
- 8 exactly what the Fourth Amendment limits on
- 9 domestic foreign intelligence searches would be.
- 10 I do think that it applies more strongly to
- domestic searches and I think it has more
- 12 significance.
- But I do think that ultimately the
- 14 foreign intelligence exception to the warrant
- requirement is a reasonable one that does need to
- be respected. It has a long tradition in history.
- In my view, really FISA is sort of on
- 18 top of that to add additional privacy protections
- that I think Congress has judged, and probably
- 20 rightly so, we need. But I'm not sure the Fourth
- 21 Amendment itself standing alone would necessarily
- 22 require all of the sort of procedural limitations

- 1 and minimization protections that we have.
- MS. BRAND: Okay. And Jameel, can you
- yery briefly, because I have another question for
- 4 you, you do not think there is any foreign
- intelligence exception to the Fourth Amendment?
- 6 Is that what I heard you say earlier?
- 7 MR. JAFFER: I don't think that there's
- 8 any foreign intelligence exception broad enough to
- <sup>9</sup> justify 702, and no court has --
- MS. BRAND: But there is -- I mean I
- guess what I'm trying to get at is, do you think
- 12 that the Fourth Amendment applies equally to
- collection for the purpose of foreign intelligence
- 14 gathering as it applies to collection when the
- purpose is to gather evidence of a bank robbery,
- 16 for example?
- MR. JAFFER: I think that there are
- 18 certainly narrow circumstances in which the courts
- 19 have held that there is a foreign intelligence
- 20 exception.
- 21 Again, those cases predate FISA, and so
- you know, you have to evaluate whether those cases

- 1 survived the thirty-five years of experience under
- 2 FISA.
- MS. BRAND: Okay. And then you
- 4 referred earlier to, I think you were referring
- 5 to, well, you're referring to 702 generally as
- 6 large scale collection. I'm not sure if you were
- 7 including both upstream or PRISM in that
- 8 assessment.
- 9 But if you were here for the first
- 10 panel and if you take the government's facts as
- 11 they stated them to be true, what about that
- 12 program strikes you as large scale? What's your
- justification for that description?
- MR. JAFFER: Well, so two responses to
- that. The first is I think it's important to draw
- a distinction between statutory restrictions and
- executive restraint. So there's a question of
- 18 what the statute allows and then there's a
- 19 question of how the government is implementing it.
- Obviously I know much less about how
- the government is implementing it than I do about
- 22 what the statute on its face allows because I can

- 1 read the statute and I have access to only a
- 2 portion of the government's documents.
- But then as to, you know, whether it's
- 4 large scale collection or not, I think that the
- 5 problem is that everybody is using these words in
- 6 different ways. The panelists this morning said
- 7 that they weren't drawing a distinction between
- 8 acquisition, surveillance, and collection. But
- 9 their own documents do draw a distinction.
- If you look at USD 18, for example,
- which is the Defense Department's implementation
- of the executive order on intelligence collection,
- 13 it draws a distinction between electronic
- 14 surveillance and acquisition on the one hand and
- 15 collection on the other.
- And collection involves the tasking of
- that, or tasking of communications, whereas
- 18 electronic surveillance and acquisition do not.
- And so, you know, we have always
- thought of this, putting the vocabulary to the
- 21 side for a second, we've always thought of this in
- 22 two stages. There is a kind of, just to -- there

- is a kind of, you might call it scanning, you
- 2 might call it collection, but there's a kind of
- 3 large scale acquisition of data, and then there's
- 4 the government tasking that data, and then there
- 5 is the government's tasking that data with
- 6 selectors.
- 7 So to be a little more concrete, if the
- 8 government installs on a switch somewhere installs
- <sup>9</sup> a device that either diverts all of the
- 10 communications or a large portion of the
- 11 communications, or scans a large portion of the
- 12 communications, we would call that bulk
- 13 collection.
- I'm not sure that anything turns on
- vocabulary but we should all make sure we're
- 16 talking about the same concepts.
- MR. MEDINE: Ms. Cook.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: Actually that was
- right at the top of the last piece. I think we've
- used, and in this conversation alone we've used
- scan, inspect, acquire, collect, access.
- 22 And so I guess my question is, if you

- 1 have access, so in your hypothetical you've
- installed something that gives you access to this
- 3 stream of communications, is that a seizure or a
- 4 search for the purpose of Fourth Amendment
- 5 analysis in your view?
- 6 MR. JAFFER: Well, I think it would
- <sup>7</sup> depend what you were accessing. You know, the
- 9 question would be have you invaded a reasonable
- 9 expectation of privacy?
- But we have taken the position that,
- 11 for example, the bulk accessing of telephone
- 12 metadata is an invasion of a reasonable
- expectation of privacy, and we would certainly
- take the same position with respect to the bulk
- acquisition of telephone calls or emails.
- The MYSTIC program, again, just
- discussing it as a kind of hypothetical, that
- 18 program in my view involves the bulk collection of
- telephone calls, voicemail messages, and telephone
- 20 calls, even if the government doesn't access more
- than a small proportion of them.
- MS. DONOHUE: May I add something to

- 1 that just very quickly? I was a little bit
- 2 confused in the earlier panel because on the one
- 3 hand they were saying this is a very limited
- 4 program. On the other hand they say that this
- 5 SIGAD is the most used NSA SIGAD.
- 6 The slides that have been released say
- it draws from Microsoft, Google, Yahoo, Facebook,
- Paltalk, YouTube, Skype, AOL and Apple, that it
- 9 gets voice over Internet protocol, email, chats,
- 10 all this information, and it's hard to square
- 11 that.
- 12 And what they say is the value of the
- program, with its limited nature --
- MS. COLLINS COOK: I'm sorry, can we
- talk about -- I appreciate your desire to talk
- about the previous panel but I had a specific
- question out that I'm really trying to understand
- the panelists' view on when the Fourth Amendment
- 19 is implicated and how.
- 20 And so if it's under your hypothetical
- 21 if you have the acquisition of all phone calls
- from a country with subsequent access, at what

- 1 point would the Fourth Amendment attach?
- MR. JAFFER: I would say certainly the
- 3 moment you put it in your databases, by that
- 4 moment the Fourth Amendment has attached.
- 5 MS. COLLINS COOK: So flipping that, if
- it's access to a wide swath of communications but
- 7 acquisition into the government's possession or
- 8 control, when would the Fourth Amendment attach?
- 9 MR. JAFFER: I'm sorry, but I've lost
- 10 track of the difference between access and
- 11 acquisition.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: And this is part of
- the, I think you've used scanned, but some ability
- 14 to review a stream of communications and pull,
- filter, something to that effect.
- MR. JAFFER: Right. The scanning or
- the filtering would implicate the Fourth Amendment
- in my view.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: That's helpful. I
- wanted to follow up on a different set of
- questions and just close the loop.
- 22 If the determination was made that the

- acquisition of the information pursuant to 702 was
- lawful, it's lawfully acquired information, would
- you still take the position that a subsequent
- 4 search, and by that I mean a query using a U.S.
- 5 person identifier, would need some sort of
- 6 probable cause determination, that there would be
- <sup>7</sup> a separate Fourth Amendment analysis?
- And can you explain why? I guess is
- <sup>9</sup> this because there's a view that there's a lack of
- 10 particularity of the front-end and therefore you
- 11 have to have subsequent some particularized
- 12 finding?
- MR. JAFFER: Yes.
- MS. DONOHUE: That would be my position
- 15 as well.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: Okay. One question
- 17 for Professor Ku, if I could. We've heard that
- 18 702 is silent, I think it's fair to say on the
- 19 precise question of abouts. There are some
- 20 structural arguments here and some purpose
- 21 arguments that you can look to, but it's silent.
- In view of the evolution of our

- 1 understanding of Article II of FISA, how would you
- 2 as a constitutional matter assess a silence in
- <sup>3</sup> 702? Because Title VII is both an authorization
- 4 and a restriction on Article II authority, so.
- MR. KU: Right. So I think, I don't
- 6 know if I have any sort of grand insights on the
- 7 purely textual analysis, although I do think that
- 8 the constitutional background is what can help us
- 9 here with respect to, if we understand where we're
- 10 coming from can help us analyze this.
- If we understand that constitutionally
- that the U.S. government was engaged in broad
- searches prior to the enactment of 702 then you
- have to sort of think about, well, to what degree.
- This is not really about authorizing,
- this is really about restricting, imposing
- 17 restrictions on what I think the U.S. government
- had the authority to do prior to the enactment of
- 19 the statute.
- 20 And so if you look at it from that
- 21 perspective then, if it doesn't, the silence or
- the lack of clarity or specificity would then I

- think lead me from that perspective to suggest
- that the President retains that power.
- I would analogize this a little bit to
- 4 the point that was made in the earlier FISA
- 5 statute, how they excluded radio completely from
- 6 the original FISA, radio communications, they just
- 7 said nothing about it.
- 8 And there are a lot of people that
- 9 argue that was on the assumption that most of the
- 10 foreign intelligence was radio in 1973 and that
- the President would continue going on gathering as
- much radio signals intelligence as he could. And
- then at a certain time, no one used radio anymore.
- But the point is that if you add the
- 15 restriction in the statute it doesn't -- the
- previous or the other authority the President has
- to conduct the surveillance should in theory
- continue, and I think would likely to continue
- here too, assuming he had the authority prior to
- the enactment.
- MR. MEDINE: Mr. Dempsey.
- MR. DEMPSEY: A quick comment and then

- 1 a question. Going to the definition of
- distinctions between collect, acquire, etcetera,
- my comment is we really have to take yes for yes
- 4 and no for no and move on. The government has
- said, to my mind totally clearly, they are not
- 6 relying upon the USD 18 concepts in implementing
- 7 702, so I think that we just have to move on from
- 8 that. That's my comment.
- 9 My question is the following, and this
- is for Jameel or anybody, Rachel, in terms of the
- querying of data otherwise lawfully acquired, what
- is the best case law that would limit the
- 13 proposition that data lawfully acquired can be
- 14 subsequently queried without limitation?
- MR. JAFFER: Well, so on your comment,
- 16 I think you're certainly right that the government
- said on the panel earlier today that they were not
- 18 relying on the distinction, any distinction
- between acquisition and collection.
- But I think that the government also
- 21 acknowledged that it was engaged in about
- surveillance, and to engage in about surveillance,

- 1 my understanding is that there is no way to engage
- in about surveillance without inspecting in some
- 3 sense every communication within the universe of
- 4 those that you are monitoring or surveilling.
- 5 There's no way to do it.
- Now you can call that bulk collection
- or you can call it something else, but that
- 8 scanning of every communication in a particular
- 9 universe raises constitutional issues, and if all
- 10 you're saying, Mr. Dempsey, is we should just
- 11 address those constitutional issues, then I
- 12 entirely agree.
- MR. DEMPSEY: So now as the querying of
- otherwise lawfully acquired communications, and
- 15 let's take, you know, if I steal your computer, I
- think, and then I give it to the government, the
- government lawfully acquired it. I may have
- 18 stolen it. Or certainly in the Title III context
- the government lawfully acquires, or in the normal
- search and seizure context, or in the voluntary
- 21 disclosure context, where is there case law
- 22 limiting the proposition that lawfully acquired

- 1 information cannot subsequently be queried
- essentially without prior authorization, without
- meeting any threshold? What is, is there any
- 4 case law limiting that?
- MS. DONOHUE: So we're starting to see
- 6 cases come out of border security issues where
- 7 computers -- border security issues, and I'd be
- 8 happy to send you the names of the cases
- 9 afterwards, where computers have been lawfully
- 10 seized under customs laws but then they cannot be
- 11 searched for all of the information on them
- 12 because of the privacy implications that are
- involved and lack of a sufficient nexus to the
- 14 suspected criminal activity.
- So those cases might be one source that
- you would look to in a new age of data where so
- much information is available.
- MR. JAFFER: You know, I think it's
- 19 important to ask the question the other way around
- 20 as well, which is, you know, where is there
- 21 case law showing that the Constitution is
- 22 indifferent to the government collecting huge

- volumes of communications without any
- <sup>2</sup> individualized suspicion or particularity, and
- then sort of bootstrapping its way into free rein
- 4 or --
- MR. DEMPSEY: Again, if we're in a
- 6 situation, I'm just trying to pose the situation
- of let us assume, just let us assume that the
- 8 collection was lawful.
- 9 MR. JAFFER: I'm not suggesting for
- these purposes that the collection was unlawful.
- 11 What I'm saying is that the collection here is
- different in kind from the kind of collection that
- the courts have been concerned with in other cases
- involving the use of information lawfully
- 15 acquired. You know, it was important to those
- 16 cases not just --
- MR. DEMPSEY: So then the license plate
- readers, the information collected by the license
- 19 plate readers is lawfully acquired and then the
- government can subsequently query that license
- 21 plate database. I mean that's standard procedure.
- MR. JAFFER: I'm not sure that it's

- 1 established with any certainty that the bulk
- 2 collection, that the querying of a database of
- 3 bulk collected license plate reader information
- 4 doesn't raise Fourth Amendment concerns, and I
- 5 think that that's still an open question.
- 6 MR. DEMPSEY: Well, I'm looking for
- 7 some cases. Professor Donohue has some border
- 8 cases --
- 9 MS. DONOHUE: I'd be happy to send you
- 10 the border doctrine cases.
- MR. DEMPSEY: That may be relevant. I
- would welcome any other cases limiting that
- proposition.
- MR. MEDINE: Judge Wald.
- MS. WALD: This is probably an unfair
- question but I'll ask it anyway. Given the fact
- that the grievances about 702 as it operates today
- have included a whole series of things, one we
- 19 didn't discuss here but it's been raised in
- written stuff is the lack of FISA review of
- 21 particularized targeting designations. I know
- it's allowed by the statute, but nonetheless the

- capture and use of incidental U.S. information to
- 2 search database, the use and retention of the U.S.
- 3 information.
- But my question is, if you had to focus
- on one or maybe two important changes that you
- 6 would like to see made now in 702, what would they
- <sup>7</sup> be? Very quickly, anybody that wants to
- 8 answer it.
- 9 MS. DONOHUE: I would say limiting the
- information to, or from, or held by the actual
- target and inserting a mechanism of judicial
- 12 review if information is uncovered that would lead
- to subsequent criminal prosecution prior to
- 14 analysis of the databases that are held.
- MS. WALD: Okay, great. Down the line.
- MR. JAFFER: The only thing that I
- would add to that is destruction of inadvertently
- 18 acquired communications. Communications that the
- 19 government itself acknowledges should not have
- 20 been acquired in the first place should be
- 21 destroyed immediately.
- MS. WALD: Destruction, they say

- they're purging them but you mean something --
- MR. JAFFER: There are broad exceptions
- $^{3}$  to the --
- 4 MS. WALD: I know there are exceptions,
- 5 but you mean -- okay.
- Do you have any, Professor Ku?
- 7 MR. KU: Actually, I mean this may be
- 8 kind of not what you're looking for, but I do
- 9 think that actually I would prefer the FISA
- section clarify the default that I've been arguing
- 11 for, that it doesn't encroach, to clarify further
- that it doesn't encroach on, Section 702 doesn't
- encroach on the President's, you know, foreign
- intelligence authority. That would, I think, help
- our interpretation of the statute.
- MS. LEVINSON-WALDMAN: And I just would
- mention three things. One is I agree more robust
- involvement by the FISC.
- MS. WALD: I'm sorry, more?
- MS. LEVINSON-WALD: More robust
- involvement by the FISC in terms of review.
- 22 There's some review now that is sort of a

- box-checking procedure, and have that review be
- 2 more --
- MS. WALD: Just the way they do what
- 4 they do now, but more carefully?
- 5 MS. LEVINSON-WALDMAN: Well, I'd say
- 6 not even, it's not so much that I think that
- 7 they're not careful with it now, it's that the
- 8 statute actually limits the scope of some of the
- 9 review that they do, that they sort of don't get
- 10 behind the curtain.
- MS. WALD: Including the targeting.
- MS. LEVINSON-WALDMAN: Right. I guess
- the second, thinking about, so if you think about
- 14 Section 702 but having the minimization procedures
- be a natural part of that statute.
- 16 Certainly limiting and potentially
- eliminating the use of information for law
- enforcement purposes. And obviously this is
- 19 something that the NSA, that the President's
- 20 review group spoke to as well and made that
- 21 recommendation.
- 22 And then the third quite honestly would

- be to lift the standard back up to agent of a
- 2 foreign power from the foreign intelligence
- 3 requirement. And the foreign intelligence purpose
- $^4$  is so loose and that that seems to be --
- MS. WALD: For targeting?
- MS. LEVINSON-WALDMAN: For targeting,
- 7 yes, that's correct.
- MS. WALD: Okay. I've got maybe one
- 9 minute left so a quick question. Some of you, I
- don't remember now, all of you in a prior one,
- when we were doing 215, talked about the
- desirability/necessity of having an adversarial
- element in the FISA proceedings.
- 14 A very quick notion of how would you
- see an adversary, however appointed, in a 702
- 16 proceeding? In other words, what function could
- they serve, he or she serve in a 702?
- 18 215 was a little bit more evident. A
- 19 novel technological case coming up to the court,
- what would you say, do they have any, would they
- have any function in a 702?
- MS. DONOHUE: So I would imagine them

- 1 having a function absolutely, yes. The ACLU tried
- to do this and was not allowed to intervene on a
- motion on a First Amendment grounds and it was
- 4 denied by the court in part on the grounds that
- 5 they would never succeed on the First Amendment to
- 6 actually intervene.
- 7 I think having an advocate there would
- 8 allow them to more carefully review minimization
- 9 procedures, to more carefully review targeting
- 10 procedures. It would allow them to evaluate the
- 11 role that they play with regard to targeting.
- 12 MS. WALD: In individual cases in 702?
- MS. DONOHUE: And in individual cases,
- 14 yes, but you would have to change to insert some
- sort of a warrant requirement equivalent for
- criminal prosecution or further examination of the
- 17 records.
- MR. JAFFER: And I think that our
- biggest concern is with judicial rulings that have
- 20 far-reaching implications and not just
- implications in the individual cases. So I think
- that when you're talking about the individual

- 1 cases, I do think that, you know, in theory an
- 2 adversarial process would be a useful thing.
- On the other hand, I think that the
- 4 closer you get to an individualized warrant
- application, or court order application, or
- 6 surveillance application, the more it looks like
- 7 traditional Title III or a search warrant context,
- 8 which is ex parte.
- 9 But you know, when you get to judicial
- opinions that authorize about surveillance at some
- level of generality, that is something that ought
- 12 to be argued in open court, you know, with a
- 13 closed hearing to follow if there is legitimate,
- 14 if there are legitimate sources and methods to be
- 15 protected.
- But if I can just use the process to
- add one answer to your previous question, I agree
- very strongly with what Rachel said that reforming
- or revising the standard, the targeting standard
- 20 is crucial.
- Right now there is, there's really no
- limit on who the government can target overseas.

- 1 The example that the government panelist kept
- coming back to is bad guy at Google.com or bad guy
- 3 at Yahoo.com. But it could as easily be
- 4 journalist at Yahoo.com, or human rights activist
- 5 at Yahoo.com. And I think it's crucial that some
- 6 limits be drawn around the category of people whom
- <sup>7</sup> the government can legitimately target.
- 8 MS. WALD: And by the FISA court?
- 9 MR. MEDINE: We only have a couple of
- 10 minutes. If there's any members of the Board who
- want to ask any additional questions.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: Can I ask just one
- quick follow-up question on this point actually?
- MR. MEDINE: Sure.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: And this is to
- 16 Ms. Levinson-Waldman. You had said lift the
- standard back to agent of a foreign power or a
- 18 foreign power. What were you referring to when
- 19 you said back to?
- MS. LEVINSON-WALDMAN: Right, I mean I
- 21 guess back to, we're sort of envisioning to some
- extent Section 702 is sui generis and when it came

- 1 into being it was a foreign intelligence
- 2 requirement. But I guess thinking of FISA more
- 3 broadly, narrowing that foreign intelligence
- 4 standard in some way to match what is in other
- 5 sections.
- 6 Obviously one option would be matching
- 7 what's in other sections of FISA, agent of a
- 8 foreign power, I think that would be our
- 9 preference, but narrowing that in some way. Back
- was probably an imprecise way of referring to it.
- 11 And if I could add one other brief
- thing, I think our other, you know, if we have a
- wish list it would be, and again, I'll say
- 14 restore, but thinking about other parts of FISA,
- having the collection be, and you know, these may
- be one or the other but having the collection, the
- foreign intelligence be the primary purpose rather
- than a significant purpose, that that has also
- 19 allowed, you know, potentially a fair amount of
- 20 slippage in terms of what the collection is for.
- MR. MEDINE: Any other final questions?
- 22 I want to thank the panelists very much for

- 1 joining us today. It was a very enlightening
- discussion. We're now going to take a lunch break
- and we will resume with our third panel at 1:45.
- 4 Thank you.
- 5 (Off the record)
- 6 MR. MEDINE: Good afternoon, and thanks
- <sup>7</sup> everyone for rejoining us. And I want to
- 8 introduce our third panel, which will be on
- <sup>9</sup> transnational and policy issues.
- We are joined by John Bellinger, who is
- 11 a partner at Arnold & Porter, Dean Garfield, who
- is the President and CEO of the Information
- 13 Technology Industry Council, Laura Pitter, who is
- 14 a Senior National Security Researcher at the Human
- Rights Watch, Ulrich Sieber, who is the Director
- 16 at the Max Planck Institute for Foreign and
- 17 International Criminal Law in Freiburg, Germany,
- and Chris Wolf, who is a partner at Hogan Lovells.
- Each of the panelists will make a brief
- opening statement and then we will proceed with
- the Board questioning.
- I guess we can start alphabetically

- with Mr. Bellinger.
- MR. BELLINGER: It's me first then.
- Well, thank you all very much for having me in,
- 4 the members of the Board. I'm going to focus my
- 5 comments on whether international law places any
- 6 restrictions on electronic surveillance of foreign
- 7 nationals outside the United States.
- I think you know I served as the legal
- 9 advisor for the Department of State from 2005 to
- 10 2009, as the legal advisor for the National
- 11 Security Council from 2001 to 2005, and then I was
- the national security advisor to the head of the
- 13 Criminal Division at Justice Department before
- that, so I have extensive experience, both in
- intelligence activities and international law.
- So in recent months I think you know
- many scholars and human rights advocates have
- 18 argued that NSA surveillance of foreign nationals
- violates a so-called universal right to privacy
- 20 recognized in international law.
- They base their argument on Article 17
- of a human rights treaty called the International

- 1 Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, which the
- U.S. ratified in 1992.
- Article 17 provides, and I quote, no
- 4 one shall be subjected to arbitrary or unlawful
- interference with his privacy, family, home, or
- 6 correspondence, end quote.
- 7 The argument that NSA surveillance
- 8 violates Article 17 of the ICCPR is incorrect for
- 9 several reasons. And I will say in my view
- international law, neither the ICCPR or any other
- 11 part of international law placed international
- 12 legal restrictions on the NSA, any of the NSA
- programs.
- With respect to the ICCPR, first, for
- the last sixty-four years the United States
- government has taken the consistent position that
- 17 it does not apply outside the borders of the
- United States. The U.S. took this position when
- we negotiated the treaty in 1950, and we
- re-articulated it in 1995, when the Clinton
- 21 administration submitted its first report to the
- U.N. Human Rights Committee, which is the group

- 1 that oversees compliance with the ICCPR.
- 2 My predecessor at the time, the then
- 3 legal advisor Conrad Harper, explained to the
- 4 committee that the ICCPR imposes obligations on
- 5 the United States only inside the United States.
- 6 And that's because Article 2 of the ICCPR, which
- <sup>7</sup> defines its scope, says that a state party is
- 8 bound to respect and ensure the rights in the
- 9 ICCPR only to all individuals within its territory
- 10 and subject to its jurisdiction.
- 11 And as my predecessor, Conrad Harper
- said at the time, this is a dual requirement that
- establishes that treaty obligations apply only if
- both conditions are satisfied. An individual must
- be under United States jurisdiction and within
- 16 United States territory.
- And now the negotiating position of the
- United States of the treaty confirms that
- interpretation. The phrase, within its territory,
- was added at the request of the head of the U.S.
- delegation, Eleanor Roosevelt at the time in 1950.
- 22 And she explained that, quote, the purpose of the

- 1 proposed addition is to make it clear that the
- draft covenant would apply only to persons within
- 3 the territory and subject to the jurisdiction of
- 4 the contracting states.
- 5 There was a vote held on that addition
- and that addition was adopted 8 to 2 in 1950.
- 7 Subsequent efforts to change that have failed.
- And again, in his statement to the
- 9 Human Rights Committee in 1995, Conrad Harper
- explained that the words were added, quote, with
- the clear understanding that such wording would
- 12 limit the obligations to within a party's
- 13 territory.
- Now it's true, and I know that Laura
- Pitter is going to talk about this, that the Human
- Rights Committee and a lot of human rights groups
- in other countries don't agree with the
- long-standing U.S. interpretation, but the Human
- 19 Rights Committee's statements don't have binding
- legal effect on the United States or to any other
- country. We give respect to them but they're not
- 22 binding on us.

- $^{
  m 1}$  Both the Bush and the Obama
- 2 administrations have confirmed the Clinton
- 3 administration's position that the ICCPR does not
- 4 apply extra-territorially.
- In fact, just five days ago in Geneva
- 6 we were making our periodic report to the Human
- 7 Rights Committee and the acting legal advisor,
- 8 Mary McLeod, told the committee, quote, the United
- 9 States continues to believe that its
- 10 interpretation that covenant applies only to
- individuals both within its territory and within
- 12 its jurisdiction is the most consistent with the
- covenant's language and negotiating history.
- So we really have fifty years of U.S.
- practice on this point recently reaffirmed by the
- 16 Obama administration.
- But even if the ICCPR did apply
- extra-territorially, the treaty would still not
- 19 place limits on NSA surveillance because persons
- in other countries are not subject to U.S.
- <sup>21</sup> jurisdiction.
- The Human Rights Committee itself has

- defined the phrase subject to a party's
- <sup>2</sup> jurisdiction to include people within the power or
- <sup>3</sup> effective control, or effective control of the
- 4 forces of a state party acting outside its
- 5 territory. So not even the Human Rights Committee
- is suggesting that everybody who may be subject to
- 7 NSA surveillance is actually within the power or
- 8 effective control of the United States.
- 9 And I would want to hear more from my
- 10 colleague who I've met before, Professor Sieber,
- but even if they're unhappy with NSA surveillance,
- 12 I am not aware of any foreign government that
- believes that the ICCPR or any other provision of
- 14 international law imposes an obligation to respect
- the privacy rights of non-citizens.
- In fact, candidly, most foreign
- governments spend lots of time spying on foreign
- 18 citizens. So they may be unhappy with what we're
- doing as a policy matter, human rights groups may
- 20 suggest that there are binding legal norms, but
- 21 I'm actually not aware that foreign governments
- 22 are suggesting that there is an actual violation

- of international law.
- 2 And finally, just to close on my
- analysis of the ICCPR, and then I'll wind up, even
- 4 if the ICCPR did impose certain obligations on
- 5 United States extraterritorial conduct, even if
- 6 people outside the United States were considered
- 7 to be within the jurisdiction of the United
- 8 States, Article 17 of the ICCPR still only bans,
- <sup>9</sup> quote, arbitrary and unlawful interference with
- 10 privacy.
- Now we can certainly argue about
- 12 constitutes arbitrary and unlawful interference
- but there is no international norm on that point.
- 14 I'm sure lots of people can suggest that the NSA
- program is arbitrary, that it's unlawful, but when
- we're talking about international law there has to
- be actually a specific norm that people have
- agreed to, and there is no generally accepted
- 19 framework under international law that defines
- 20 what kind of surveillance is unlawful or
- <sup>21</sup> arbitrary.
- So the bottom line, despite statements

- that we are violating the Article 17 of the ICCPR,
- it just simply does not apply, nor does any other
- 3 provision of international law.
- 4 And so let me close by saying that just
- because international law doesn't actually create
- 6 a universal right of privacy that's binding on the
- 7 United States, I'm by no means saying that we
- 8 ought to be insensitive to the rights of
- 9 non-citizens. Certainly if I were still in the
- 10 White House I would be saying, you know, we need
- to be respectful of concerns both of individuals
- or of leaders. That's why we make these policy
- 13 decisions.
- President Obama's recent presidential
- 15 policy directive states that signals intelligence
- activities must take into account that all persons
- should be treated with dignity and respect,
- 18 regardless of their nationality or wherever they
- might reside, and that all persons have legitimate
- 20 privacy interests in the handling of their
- 21 personal information.
- So it's perfectly appropriate to take

- into account privacy interests, but international
- law does not place binding legal obligations on
- 3 us. Thank you.
- 4 MR. MEDINE: Thank you. Mr. Garfield.
- 5 MR. GARFIELD: Thank you. Thank you
- 6 members of PCLOB on behalf of fifty-six of the
- 7 most dynamic and innovative companies in the
- 8 world, thank you for inviting us to testify today.
- 9 And thank you as well for your efforts to advance
- 10 both national security and civil liberties.
- From our perspective we have the firm
- 12 view that those two concepts are mutually
- reinforcing and in fact are not mutually exclusive
- and so we want to do whatever we can to support
- 15 your efforts.
- I'd like to focus my testimony on two
- 17 areas. One, what we're experiencing in the
- marketplace as a result of the NSA disclosures
- and, then share some solutions that may help
- 20 remediate some of the challenges that we're
- 21 facing.
- On the first, the economic impact from

- the NSA disclosures are significant and ongoing.
- The folks in this room are very familiar with
- 3 Section 215 and the distinction between that and
- 4 Section 702, but for folks outside of this room
- 5 much of what they experience and what we're
- 6 experiencing is diminishing trust, particularly
- <sup>7</sup> diminishing trust in U.S.-based technologies. So
- 8 rather than made in the U.S.A. being a badge of
- 9 honor, it's increasingly becoming a basis to
- 10 question the integrity and security of
- 11 technologies.
- 12 That has a real world economic impact.
- 13 In fact, there are a number of analyses out there
- that put the numbers of the impact in the tens of
- billions of dollars.
- As significant, perhaps even more
- significant than the economic loss is the broader
- 18 societal impact and the implications for the
- 19 Internet more generally. We're celebrating this
- year the 25th anniversary of the commercialization
- of the Internet and are all very familiar with the
- 22 benefits and the way it's transformed all of our

- 1 lives.
- Increasingly, what we're seeing though
- 3 are policies aimed at changing the open,
- 4 ubiquitous, globally-integrated Internet into one
- of walled silos. And so the legislation that's
- 6 actually being debated today in Brazil would
- 7 create walled gardens around their data.
- 8 And it's not simply limited to Brazil.
- 9 We're seeing the same in Europe, as you all know,
- where the parliament is questioning the continuing
- viability of the safe harbor, or in particular
- 12 territories within Europe where they're calling
- 13 for country-specific clouds that would again
- 14 create these islands of walled silos rather than
- an open, integrated Internet, which we all know
- the implications of that.
- 17 And so what do we do about it? I'll
- offer up three sets of solutions that build on
- 19 global principles that we released earlier this
- year after working with our members to forge
- 21 consensus on it.
- 22 And I place the emphasis on global

- because we firmly believe that in order to address
- these issues and to address them effectively, high
- 3 level, global communication and engagement around
- 4 surveillance is critically important.
- 5 The first aspect or screed of solutions
- is around transparency. This body, the PCLOB in
- 7 its January report made the point that
- 8 transparency is the foundation for democratic
- 9 principles. We firmly agree. We also think it's
- the foundation for separating fact from fable.
- And so to the extent that there's a
- greater awareness, particularly around 702 where
- there are protections in place already, for there
- 14 to be greater awareness about that would be quite
- 15 helpful.
- 16 As it relates to our companies, the
- ability to share with the public more about 702
- and 215 and the requests that come in pursuant to
- those, as well as the accounts, particularly the
- 20 numbers, would be incredibly helpful. And so
- greater transparency is one element of what we
- 22 would recommend.

- 1 The second relates to oversight. And
- 2 as I've said in other places, including my
- 3 testimony on the hill, our solutions are offered
- 4 with a great deal of humility because we don't
- 5 know what we don't know. I don't pretend to be
- 6 able to offer the exact framework for making sure
- <sup>7</sup> that there is a civil libertarian advocate or a
- 8 civil liberties advocate within the FISA or FISC
- 9 court process. But developing a framework for
- 10 enabling that, we think is very important.
- Finally, the last set of solutions are
- 12 based on working to rebuild the trust that has
- been eroded, and there, a few unequivocal
- 14 statements from our government would be quite
- 15 helpful.
- By way of example, there has been a lot
- of reporting around steps that may or may not have
- been taken to undermine encryption standards.
- 19 NIST has been very firm in taking steps to make
- sure that they bolster the encryption standards
- that are being developed.
- But a statement from our government

- 1 that they don't, do not intend to take steps to
- 2 undermine the integrity of our cyber -- to
- 3 undermine the integrity of those standards would
- 4 be incredibly important.
- 5 Similarly, taking steps to affirm that
- data acquisition pursuant to 702 is not being done
- <sup>7</sup> in an indiscriminate manner, I think would also be
- 9 incredibly helpful. With that, I'll pause.
- 9 MR. MEDINE: Thank you. Ms. Pitter.
- MS. PITTER: First, thank you very much
- 11 for this opportunity. Thank you for having me.
- We've filed a more lengthy statement with the
- Board so I'm just going to be a little bit more
- 14 brief here.
- I was asked to talk about U.S.
- obligations under the International Covenant for
- 17 Civil and Political Rights so I'll start with
- 18 that.
- And obviously, I'm going to disagree
- with Mr. Bellinger on this issue, as did Harold
- 21 Koh's recently released memo where he disagreed as
- well and tried to get the Obama administration to

- 1 take a different position, arguing that it was not
- 2 actually in the U.S. interests to continue to not
- 3 apply the ICCPR in an extraterritorial manner.
- 4 There has been debate about whether or
- 5 not this treaty applies outside of U.S. borders
- 6 and it stems from, as Mr. Bellinger said, the
- 7 operative jurisdictional clause in the covenant
- 8 which says that states have an obligation to
- 9 respect and ensure that those within its territory
- and subject to its jurisdiction, the rights under
- 11 the covenant.
- So the word jurisdiction in that clause
- has been interpreted to mean power and effective
- 14 control. But the U.S. does not accept that. It
- takes a strictly territorial stance. And this
- 16 essentially means that a state has to abide by the
- covenant within its territory but then it can
- willfully violate the covenant outside its
- territory, killing and pillaging at will outside
- its borders, which doesn't really make any sense.
- 21 Treaty law requires that the language
- of the treaty be interpreted in accordance with

- its context, as well as its object and purpose.
- 2 And the context in this case was post-World War
- 3 Two when the treaty drafters were aiming at
- 4 empowering people with rights universally and not
- 5 diminishing them, and responding effectively to
- 6 Nazi atrocities.
- 7 To interpret the treaty in that limited
- 8 way would allow, for example, Nazi Germany to run
- 9 a concentration camp in Poland, as Marco
- 10 Milanovic, a prominent scholar on this issue has
- 11 pointed out.
- 12 And the U.S. is the clear outlier on
- this. Only the U.S. and Israel take such a strict
- interpretation of the treaty.
- So how does this apply to surveillance
- and the right to privacy? Some have argued that
- even if the ICCPR applies extra-territorially it
- should only be in the case where the government
- 19 has physical control over the individual, like in
- 20 the context of detention or torture. And that
- doesn't apply to surveillance simply because the
- 22 individual is not within a state's effective

- 1 control.
- 2 But the problem is that their
- 3 communications are. And so to not recognize even
- 4 a duty to respect the right to privacy in this
- 5 context creates a kind of absurd situation where
- the U.S. would be barred from going into someone's
- 7 house in Germany and taking letters out of
- 8 someone's drawer but not barred from reaching into
- <sup>9</sup> their computer and doing the very same thing
- 10 remotely.
- These are novel questions, and I won't
- deny that. The Human Rights Committee, which is
- the main interpretive body of the ICCPR, has not
- 14 adjudicated this matter.
- 15 And though there is a body of case law
- in other jurisdictions, particularly in the
- 17 European Court of Human Rights, that have the
- 18 issue and they do provide some guidance on a
- 19 framework for how to analyze surveillance laws.
- That said, those decisions, they came
- out before the Snowden revelations so they're not
- 22 informed by a lot of the information that's come

- in the public domain about the vastness of the
- 2 collection that's going on.
- But these issues are novel in the U.S.
- 4 too. Just because there may not be necessarily a
- 5 case en point does not mean the obligations or the
- for rights don't exist. They are in the treaty.
- Just as like many in the U.S. have
- 8 argued that U.S. law has to catch up with
- 9 technology and recognize a reasonable expectation
- of privacy in metadata, international law has to
- acknowledge that when it comes to surveillance,
- though an individual may not necessarily be in a
- 13 state's physical control, their communications
- 14 are, and the right to privacy can be violated
- remotely through technical means.
- But just because the obligation applies
- extra-territorially does not mean that the
- surveillance has to stop. There is a framework
- within which surveillance can take place, but also
- be in accordance with human rights obligations.
- The surveillance has to be lawful and
- 22 non-arbitrary and necessary to a legitimate cause

- 1 that's proportional to that legitimate aim.
- By all accounts, that's not what 702
- 3 is. 702 may all be for the purpose of protecting
- 4 U.S. national security, which would be a
- 5 legitimate aim, but are there more narrowly
- 6 tailored ways to achieve that aim?
- And if the answer to that question is
- 8 no, and I'm going to quote from the review group
- 9 here, the question is not whether granting the
- 10 government authority makes us incrementally safer
- but whether the additional safety is worth the
- sacrifice in terms of individual privacy, personal
- 13 liberty, and public trust. And also, is it really
- worth the other harms that will result?
- We're in a situation now in which
- 16 countries are rushing to enact laws that would
- 17 localize data collection and companies are rushing
- 18 to offer alternatives to customer data being
- 19 stored in the U.S.
- 20 And from a technological standpoint
- 21 data flows are not necessarily based on geography
- but travel the cheapest, most efficient route.

- 1 This means a transfer to someone in the same
- 2 country can mean data passing through many
- 3 countries without the sender even knowing it. So
- 4 a failure to respect the right to privacy
- 5 extra-territorially imposes, exposes U.S. data to
- 6 vulnerability when it's situated in other states.
- 7 The President has already essentially
- 8 recognized all this. His presidential policy
- <sup>9</sup> directive purports to bring the rules on retention
- and dissemination of data collection on foreigners
- 11 closer to those that govern data on U.S. persons.
- 12 But it did not end bulk collection and
- specifically exempted data temporarily acquired to
- 14 facilitate targeted collection.
- 15 Also, this was through an executive
- order not legislation, so it could be changed by
- 17 future administrations.
- The bottom line is that the U.S. is in
- 19 a unique position because most of the world's data
- 20 flows through its borders. And this confers an
- obligation to respect the privacy rights of those
- 22 individuals whose communications fall within the

- U.S. jurisdiction, but also to refrain from
- interfering with the ability of other countries to
- 3 protect data, protect their own citizens' data.
- 4 And a failure to recognize the value of this
- 5 undermines U.S. business and long term national
- 6 security interests.
- 7 The administration says it will make
- 8 some changes but the law remains the same and that
- <sup>9</sup> too has to change.
- MR. MEDINE: Thank you. Mr. Sieber,
- 11 Professor Sieber.
- MR. SIEBER: Thank you very much for
- your kind invitation. It's a pleasure to be here.
- 14 International legal obligations for
- U.S. surveillance programs for which you are
- asking can be based on two different sources,
- interests of states and interests of persons. The
- 18 two are interrelated since the protection of a
- 19 state's territory also has effectual protective
- <sup>20</sup> functions for its citizens.
- Let me start therefore with a few
- remarks on this broader approach before turning to

- 1 specific human rights, which have been addressed
- 2 here.
- 3 General international law and Article 2
- 4 of the U.N. Charter protects the sovereign
- <sup>5</sup> equality and territorial integrity of all states.
- A state therefore violates territorial
- 7 sovereignty if it accesses, copies, or manipulates
- 8 non-public data in computer systems located in a
- 9 foreign state because such acts initiate in data
- 10 processing on the servers located in a foreign
- 11 territory.
- There are no norms in public
- international law that permit violating other
- states' sovereignty by across the board world-wide
- 15 surveillance.
- There is also no customary rule of
- international law that permits the infringement of
- sovereignty resulting from acts of espionage.
- In addition, espionage committed from
- the premises of embassies violates the obligations
- under Article 3 of the Vienna Convention on
- 22 Diplomatic Relations.

- 1 These infringements of the territorial
- integrity of many states by large scale
- 3 surveillance programs have two impacts for our
- 4 topic. First, with respect to policy
- 5 considerations, infringements of the territorial
- 6 integrity of foreign states violate international
- 7 law, plus in addition also national cyber crime
- 8 statutes that are globally agreed upon in the
- 9 Budapest Convention.
- These violations pose serious threat to
- the continuing trust and the integrity of the U.S.
- 12 and its IT industry. This infringement may be
- more serious than the violations of privacy
- 14 rights, the scope of which are controversially in
- dispute in most countries.
- Secondly, transnational surveillance
- programs on foreign territory take over the
- 18 security functions of the affected states. This
- 19 transnational control deprives citizens of
- 20 protection by their own state and any other legal
- 21 protective systems in these security measures,
- 22 since their home state cannot protect them against

- 1 unknown foreign violations of their privacy and
- the intercepting foreign state often does not
- 3 recognize any aliens' rights outside its territory
- 4 where the interception is taking place.
- In such a global system the citizens,
- 6 including U.S. citizens, are deprived of any
- 7 protection, especially if authorities of different
- 8 countries exchange certain data.
- 9 Thus we are all losing a protective
- 10 system which mankind has won in a long historical
- battle dating back to the Enlightenment. Thus, if
- we are engaging in transnational surveillance
- 13 programs we must at least recognize certain basic
- 14 human rights apply to all humans, regardless of
- nationality and place of residence. And if we
- want to create an effective global solution this
- must be supported by international human rights,
- 18 to which I will now turn.
- 19 In the field of international human
- 20 rights I will also concentrate on Article 17 of
- 21 the International Covenant of Civil and Political
- 22 Rights. The International Court of Justice, the

- 1 U.N. Human Rights Committee, both in its case law
- and in its General Comment 31, as well as many
- 3 national courts and governments acknowledge the
- 4 extraterritorial applicability of the ICCPR.
- I also simply refer to the well-founded
- 6 memorandum presented by Harold Koh, former legal
- advisor at the U.S. State Department in 2010 and
- 8 2013, with respect to the ICCPR. Koh is
- <sup>9</sup> convincingly for the extraterritorial
- 10 applicability of the conventions.
- 11 According to the prevailing opinion,
- the ICCPR is extra-territorially applicable to
- anybody within the power or effective control of
- 14 the acting state party or its agents.
- In the physical world, extraterritorial
- applicability of the ICCPR is thus limited to
- 17 situations in which the government has total or
- special control, spatial control over a territory.
- Since communications and privacy rights
- are by their very nature exercised in the virtual
- world and are prominently infringed upon there,
- the control of this virtual world by highly

- 1 extensive surveillance programs should be a
- 2 decisive factor.
- If we do not accept these conclusions
- 4 we still must deal with an argument of the German
- 5 Constitutional Court, which also might be relevant
- 6 for the American discussion. The court argues
- 7 that telecommunication interception not only
- 8 infringes upon privacy rights by the first act of
- 9 recording the telecommunication, it also infringes
- on these rights by the following data transmission
- to their home country, the analysis, the linking,
- 12 the long-lasting storing, and by further
- transmissions to other recipients.
- 14 All these acts are repeating and
- deepening the infringements of privacy rights and
- they are undoubtedly committed on the territory of
- the surveilling states. Thus, even in cases of
- 18 foreign intelligence gathering, we are not dealing
- only with actions outside the national territory.
- 20 Accepting the arguments for the
- 21 transnational applicability of specific
- 22 international human rights would promote then a

- deeper discussion on the substantive scope of
- international human rights protection of privacy.
- A first attempt to define the contours
- 4 of the international concept of privacy can be
- 5 seen in the already mentioned U.N. General
- 6 Assembly Resolution 68167 of last December on the
- 7 right to privacy in the digital age.
- 8 When this discussion proceeds, it will
- 9 be most important to recognize that threats from
- abroad are different from internal threats. Thus
- the principle of proportionality as developed by
- international and national courts will lead to
- very different results in different circumstances,
- 14 such as for data collection to homeland, in
- 15 Afghanistan, or today in the Ukraine.
- These necessary differentiations under
- the principle of proportionality can recognize
- many U.S. security concerns. Thus applying
- 19 certain transnational privacy rights would not
- 20 prevent a reasonable security policy, especially
- 21 also since the ICCPR is self-executing in the
- U.S.A. and national foreign citizens could not

- initiate judicial proceedings against the U.S.
- In sum, I would advocate for an
- 3 international solution and discussion in order to
- 4 maintain or regain the leading role of the U.S. as
- 5 an advocate for the rule of law and human rights
- 6 in democratic societies, as well as for the trust
- <sup>7</sup> in its IT industry and its clouds.
- If time is not yet ripe for an
- 9 international human rights solution, then more
- emphasis should be placed on national efforts to
- provide more guarantees for non-U.S. persons.
- 12 For that reason I welcome the
- 13 respective U.S. Presidential Directive 28 of last
- January to applying certain safeguards for all
- 15 individuals, regardless of the nationality of the
- individuals to whom the information pertains or
- where that individual resides.
- This policy is also the position of the
- 19 German constitutional law. In case of your
- interest it would be a pleasure for me to provide
- 21 you with more details on these comparative legal
- 22 aspects later on in the discussion. Thank you.

2 MR. WOLF: Thank you, Mr. Chairman. As Chairman Medine said at the outset, I'm the 3 4 partner in the law firm of Hogan Lovells, where I lead the firm's global privacy practice. 6 And in 2013 Hogan Lovells published a 7 white paper examining the similarities and differences among various legal regimes that 9 authorize and limit governmental access to data. And our work began before the Snowden 10 11 NSA disclosures in response to the claims of certain EU cloud service providers that storage of 12 13 data in the EU made it safer from surveillance than storage with a U.S.-based cloud provider. 14

MR. MEDINE: Thank you. Mr. Wolf.

- A previous white paper we did on
- governmental access to data internationally noted

Obviously following the Snowden

revelations the argument in support of allegedly

secure from surveillance regional clouds has been

- the availability of mutual legal assistance
- treaties and other forms of cross-border

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renewed loudly.

- 1 governmental sharing addressing faulty claims of
- 2 regional cloud service providers about the
- invulnerability to foreign government access that
- 4 local cloud storage might provide.
- 5 Our 2013 white paper specifically
- looked at Section 702 surveillance and the
- <sup>7</sup> frameworks in Australia, Canada, France, Germany,
- 8 and the United Kingdom. My written and oral
- 9 testimony today synthesizes the findings from this
- white paper and includes additional information on
- similar laws in Brazil, Italy, and Spain that we
- intend to publish soon.
- I will note that our white paper
- 14 foreshadowed last week's report of the European
- 15 Parliament criticizing the practices of certain EU
- member states for the lack of transparency and
- 17 controls on their surveillance activities.
- 18 My principle point today following our
- white paper is straightforward. While the
- 20 policies and practices of the United States
- 21 addressing surveillance and related privacy
- 22 concerns obviously need to be and are being

- 1 reassessed, the U.S. has on its books greater due
- 2 process and independent oversight of surveillance
- 3 activities than many of our fellow democracies.
- 4 As you know, Section 702 surveillance
- 5 requires court approval, surveillance is limited
- 6 to foreign intelligence information, and oversight
- 7 mechanisms exist for 702 surveillance.
- As our white paper revealed those same
- 9 limitations are not always found in the law of
- 10 many of our counterparts. Australia, Canada,
- 11 France, Germany, Italy, and the United Kingdom do
- 12 not require court approval for national security
- 13 surveillance.
- In France, the intelligence agency is
- 15 allowed to conduct surveillance to protect
- economic and scientific assets, even when national
- security interests are not at stake.
- On the issue of intelligence agencies
- 19 secretly and without any process at all asking
- 20 companies for data, we have found that Australia,
- 21 Canada, France, Germany, and the U.K. allow their
- governments to ask private entities voluntarily to

- disclose data to the government.
- In the U.S. the government is not
- 3 allowed to seek voluntary transfers. A neutral
- 4 judicial body must approve the government's
- <sup>5</sup> request for data.
- 6 Last week's resolution by the European
- 7 Parliament recognized extensive surveillance
- 8 systems in EU member states, and the lack of
- 9 control and effective oversight that some EU
- 10 member states have over their intelligence
- 11 community.
- The resolution also questioned the
- compatibility of some member state's massive
- economic espionage activities within the EU, with
- 15 the EU internal market and competition laws. The
- parliament did not go into the detail of our white
- paper, but its resolution reflected the baseline
- 18 findings of our research, that there are
- 19 substantial deficiencies in transparency about and
- 20 controls over national security access to data in
- 21 countries outside the U.S.
- Thus when also considering the cross-

- 1 border sharing arrangements available to
- 2 governments for information they collect through
- 3 surveillance, it is misleading in the extreme to
- 4 contend that so-called regional clouds provide
- 5 individuals with security from government
- 6 surveillance.
- 7 I commend this Board for engaging in an
- 8 assessment of U.S. surveillance practices and
- 9 looking at how these practices relate to our
- 10 counterparts. There are no quarantees in the U.S.
- or elsewhere that agencies will abide by the laws
- 12 restricting national security surveillance, but
- the degree of authorization required and the kind
- of review that occurs is obviously relevant to a
- determination of how well personal privacy and
- 16 personal liberty are protected.
- Thank you again for the opportunity to
- present the findings of our white paper and I'll
- 19 look forward to your questions.
- MR. MEDINE: Thank you very much.
- 21 I want to turn to the ICCPR for a
- 22 moment, and as I understand it there are really

- 1 two issues here. One is the jurisdictional test,
- and if you pass that then the substantive test
- with regard to evaluating whether the 702 program
- 4 affords appropriate protections or is arbitrary in
- 5 some fashion.
- I want to start with the jurisdictional
- <sup>7</sup> issues, and that is, I guess there are three
- 8 interpretations of the applicability of the
- 9 treaty. One is that there has to be both
- territorial presence and jurisdiction. The other
- is there could be one or the other. And I guess
- the co-approach, which is they sort of split it,
- and that is there is a respect requirement across
- the board and an ensure requirement only subject
- to the territorial and jurisdictional issues.
- I want to ask about the jurisdictional
- 17 side. As we know from discussion earlier today
- and what's been made public is the information
- that's being collected under the 702 program is
- 20 being collected in the United States, albeit about
- 21 non-U.S. persons.
- I guess my question is for the

- 1 panelists, how should we, how should one interpret
- jurisdiction? It's not going to be up to us to
- interpret it, but in terms of understanding
- 4 jurisdiction, is it jurisdiction over the
- information, which may be here, is it jurisdiction
- 6 over the person, who may be elsewhere? And how
- 7 would that apply, both in sort of friendly and
- 8 unfriendly countries, in terms of the scope of our
- 9 responsibilities?
- MR. BELLINGER: I'll take a stab at
- that. Let me say a couple of things. One, just
- 12 to reiterate that the U.S. has in fact reaffirmed
- its position again that the ICCPR does not apply
- 14 extra-territorially and the point that the
- individuals have to be under the power and
- 16 control.
- You know, I get sort of the novel
- 18 suggestion that anybody who is subject to
- 19 electronic surveillance is therefore under U.S.
- power and control. But I don't think that's
- 21 actually a credible argument.
- 22 Even the Human Rights Committee I think

- 1 would not go so far as to say that if one can
- touch a foreign national through surveillance that
- 3 that is someone who is under U.S. power and
- 4 control.
- 5 The fact that the surveillance may be
- then collected ultimately inside the United States
- 7 I think does not change the fact that the
- 8 collection is being done of persons who are
- 9 outside the United States. And so I think that
- does not change the, either the essential
- jurisdictional element that it does not apply
- 12 extra-territorially outside the United States, and
- that those individuals are within the power and
- 14 control of the United States.
- 15 Again, these are things that one might
- wish were so, and I'm not sure that there's as
- much of a disagreement between me and Laura Pitter
- 18 as she suggests.
- 19 If one were writing a new treaty and
- 20 could get people to agree to certain things one
- 21 might agree that there might be, you know, policy
- 22 limitations that one might accept.

- But the way this particular treaty is
- written now, certainly the view of the United
- 3 States government, and I frankly think I am not
- 4 aware of any single government in the world, and I
- mean this is what I mean, governments who believe
- 6 that their right to conduct electronic
- <sup>7</sup> surveillance of people outside their territory is
- 8 controlled by the ICCPR. I would be very
- 9 surprised if we found any European government, as
- upset as they might be with electronic
- surveillance by the United States, who would say
- the Article 17 of the ICCPR limits our ability to
- 13 collect outside our borders.
- 14 And in fact, the German government in a
- submission made to the European Court of Human
- Rights interpreting the European Convention on
- 17 Human Rights argued that that convention did not
- 18 limit its electronic surveillance of Uruguayans
- outside of Germany.
- So again, the view of governments is
- that this does not have jurisdictional control
- over people who are outside their territory.

MR. MEDINE: I just wanted to follow What is the scenario where someone would be 3 in our territory and not within our jurisdiction? 4 Because the statute, the treaty says both territory and jurisdiction. Are there other situations where one would apply but not the 6 7 other? MR. BELLINGER: Well, certainly there 9 would be people who would be, theoretically there 10 could be people who are not in our territory and 11 who could be subject to our jurisdiction. That was the problem that Eleanor Roosevelt was trying 12 13 to solve at the time, to think about what the converse might create. 14 15 MR. MEDINE: Okay, thanks. Ms. Pitter. 16 MS. PITTER: Well, first of all, the 17 German position was taken in 2008 before these revelations came forward and they've since 18 19 sponsored a U.N. resolution which underscores the 20 importance of respecting the right to privacy. 21 So I would say that, you know, Koh's 22 interpretation is that there's on the one hand a

- duty to ensure the rights in the covenant to those
- within a state's territory and jurisdiction, and
- 3 then there's also a duty to respect the rights of
- 4 individuals outside of the territory, the actual
- 5 territory of the United States.
- 6 So there's the duty to respect is
- 7 what's important here, and so there is an
- 8 obligation under the ICCPR, even with the
- <sup>9</sup> jurisdictional clause, to respect the rights to
- 10 privacy of those outside the United States.
- But this all, as you said, is happening
- in the United States. I mean the data is flowing
- through U.S. borders, although I'm not sure about
- the backbone upstream collection, where exactly
- that's taking place. So absolutely, yeah,
- absolutely, I mean I think that it would be the
- duty to respect the right to privacy is what's
- implicated here.
- MR. MEDINE: Thank you. Judge Wald.
- MS. WALD: I've got two questions I
- 21 think for Mr. Bellinger. First is I think we
- 22 recognize that the government has now reaffirmed

- its earlier position about what the ICCPR means in
- 2 relation to people abroad. But I wondered if
- you'd just say a word about how they dealt with
- 4 the question of Article 31 of the Vienna
- 5 Convention on the interpretation of treaties
- insofar as, as I remember it, you know, deference
- <sup>7</sup> should be given to the official interpreters of
- 8 the -- which in this case I believe, you know,
- 9 have taken a much broader interpretation of that.
- 10 And I think a couple of our Supreme
- 11 Court justices have said in several cases that
- when you're interpreting, when they're
- interpreting a treaty one should look to the
- interpretations, maybe for guidance, maybe not
- controlling, of other parties to the same treaty.
- Just a word or two on those two aspects of the
- 17 reasoning which led to what is, is the
- 18 reaffirmance of it.
- MR. BELLINGER: Right, and I think what
- you're talking about is the General Comment 31 of
- the Human Rights Committee.
- MS. WALD: Yeah, yeah.

- 1 MR. BELLINGER: Which certainly in the
- view of the United States, and again, I'm not
- 3 aware of any government in the world who believes
- 4 that the views of the Human Rights Committee
- 5 actually are legally binding.
- The Human Rights Committee was set up
- 7 to monitor compliance and it makes statements
- 8 which governments, including the United States,
- give respect to but we certainly don't, neither we
- 10 nor other countries believe that that is the
- definitive interpretation of the treaty, nor do we
- believe that it's legally binding.
- MS. WALD: Okay. My second question --
- MS. PITTER: I was just going to add,
- sorry.
- MS. WALD: Go ahead.
- MS. PITTER: That it is, the Human
- 18 Rights Committee is a very authoritative source
- 19 regarding the interpretation of the covenant. And
- I mean the U.S. is under an obligation to give
- 21 effect to the rights in the treaty in good faith.
- 22 So what the Human Rights Committee has said in

- that regard is very important.
- MR. BELLINGER: And if I could just
- 3 say, because these are important points right now,
- 4 including for treaties, frankly the Human Rights
- Watch is extremely interested and having gotten
- 6 through the senate the U.N. Convention on
- 7 Disabilities.
- 8 So you know, Human Rights Watch can
- 9 speak for itself, but certainly the view of the
- 10 U.S. government and of most human rights
- organizations is that the statements made by these
- treaty compliance groups, while due great respect,
- are not binding on the United States.
- 14 If they were in fact considered to be
- 15 binding on the United States, those would in fact
- 16 fundamentally change U.S. obligations under the
- treaties and we would never get any treaties
- through the senate, including the treaty that both
- 19 Laura and I would very much like to get through
- the senate, the U.N. Disabilities Convention.
- MS. WALD: Okay. My second question
- very quickly is that acknowledging what

- 1 everybody's about, that this big debate in the
- international world will continue probably despite
- 3 the most recent position we've taken, and given,
- 4 you know, all of the people allied with it, the
- official interpreters, whatever they're called,
- 6 Harold Koh, Sara Cleveland, Manfred Nowak, who's
- 7 the U.N.'s leading expert on the ICCPR, my
- question to you deals with the last paragraph of
- 9 your both oral and written testimony, and that is
- that you would see no problem with a policy which
- 11 gave greater consideration to the rights of
- 12 non-U.S. persons within the surveillance context,
- alluding to the fact that the President in his
- 14 directive suggested that.
- But I'm wondering if you, having served
- the position you did as counselor in the State
- 17 Department, have any more specific ideas about in
- this context 701, or maybe even in other
- 19 surveillance programs we could do just that?
- MR. BELLINGER: Thank you, Judge. It
- is a great question. I have not actually given a
- lot of thought to that.

MS. WALD: Maybe a little. 2 MR. BELLINGER: My general sense from 3 the surveillance that I saw was in fact that we 4 are very targeted on specific intelligence requirements. 6 These are not broad dragnets of the 7 surveillance of average individuals and so this is 8 not a great violation of the rights of privacy of 9 every single foreign national, that's very much focused on individuals who may pose a national 11 security threat or for which the United States has a valid intelligence interest. 12 13 MS. WALD: Would you, for instance, think that taking national security, assuming you 14 15 didn't have a national security risk, that 16 basically non-U.S. persons we should try to

- in our surveillance, or not?
- MR. BELLINGER: I think that some of

approximate as much as we can within those

retention, that kind of thing of non-U.S. persons

restrictions the equal treatment in use,

the things that the Obama administration,

17

18

- 1 President Obama has been focusing on to ensure
- that, particularly for the information that is
- 3 collected, that we ensure that it is kept private.
- I mean I would be personally, I haven't
- 5 seen this happen, but I would be personally
- 6 extremely concerned if we found that the United
- 7 States had collected information about foreigners
- great or small, either a world leader or a lesser
- 9 known person, and then we're not careful with that
- information and were to let it out. That would
- very much interfere with that individual's right
- 12 to privacy.
- I think, you know, as a national
- 14 security official it's important for us to collect
- the information that we've collected, but we need
- to be extremely careful with it. So my sense is
- that as a policy matter these privacy concerns are
- 18 important.
- MR. MEDINE: Mr. Dempsey.
- MR. DEMPSEY: My question I guess for
- 21 Laura Pitter and maybe also for Mr. Sieber. Among
- the major, certainly the countries that Chris Wolf

- 1 looked at and cited, but among the other major
- democracies that do foreign intelligence
- 3 surveillance, is there anyone that has a law which
- 4 you would point to as a better model?
- 5 MR. SIEBER: Could you ask the
- 6 question?
- 7 MR. MEDINE: Is there a country that
- 8 has a better model of surveillance than ours? Is
- <sup>9</sup> that --
- MR. DEMPSEY: Yeah. In other words,
- what other country has a better model, a better
- law, more checks and balances, more controls, more
- 13 limits?
- MR. SIEBER: In general.
- MR. MEDINE: In general, checks and
- 16 controls balancing privacy and civil liberties and
- 17 national security.
- MR. SIEBER: It's a very broad
- 19 question --
- MR. DEMPSEY: Just pick one.
- MR. SIEBER: Because you have to
- 22 consider many, many aspects, not only the

- 1 extraterritorial implication. I just can give you
- 2 some reliable differences a between the German
- 3 system and the U.S. American, that's what I can
- 4 witness on.
- If you have a look at the German system
- 6 you have to see that Germany has a very strong
- 7 constitutional court and is very much attached to
- 8 fundamental rights. This is a reaction to the
- 9 Nazi cruelties and any steps towards this
- direction should be prevented. This is the reason
- 11 for some very basic differences between the U.S.
- 12 and Germany.
- The first one, for example, is that
- 14 intelligence agencies in Germany have no executive
- 15 powers. So they cannot execute arrest warrants or
- 16 anything like that. They just can collect the
- information. This is based on the idea that the
- 18 lack of control which we have in this area of
- intelligence agencies must be balanced by lesser
- 20 constrained measures.
- Secondly, Germany has constitutionally
- founded strong separation of powers and separation

- between the police and the intelligence agencies.
- This has been changed a little bit after 9/11 but
- 3 still there is a fundamental separation.
- 4 Information exchange is only possible
- 5 in a very limited way for very, very serious,
- 6 serious crimes.
- 7 So I would say the differentiation
- 8 between the institutions is stricter. We don't
- 9 have multipurpose institutions like the FBI.
- 10 On the institutional side there is an
- 11 absolute strong separation between these
- 12 institutions, despite certain common datas and
- things which we have done after 9/11.
- 14 You could go further, if I compare it
- and look around at the control agencies which you
- have. In Germany it's separated. For internal
- 17 surveillance we have a special commission
- appointed by the parliament, G-10 Commission who
- is doing the job. It's not called a court but the
- 20 functions are similar.
- 21 And for foreign intelligence agency,
- the BND, there is a parliamentary commission who

- does these things.
- Maybe one last point, if you look at
- 3 the aspect of protection of foreigners' rights and
- 4 applicability of the constitution abroad, the
- 5 German attitude is more in favor of applying the
- 6 national constitutional guarantees.
- With respect to the first question,
- 8 which is foreign territoriality, section 1 of the
- 9 basic law says that the basic law binds all public
- 10 authority. And this is in general irrespective of
- whether it's in the country or outside the
- 12 country.
- 13 There are differences of course, but
- they have more to do with the different
- circumstances, because the risks coming from
- abroad might be bigger than coming from within the
- countries, and for that reason I absolutely agree
- that the systems might be different for internal
- 19 intelligence and external.
- But it's not based on the fact that we
- do not apply the constitutional guarantees abroad,
- 22 and it's definitely not based on the fact that we

- 1 are giving different rights to foreigners and to
- <sup>2</sup> citizens, at least in this area of dignity rights,
- of human rights, and especially in the privacy
- 4 rights.
- 5 So for example, there was a German
- 6 decision of the court which was controlling
- <sup>7</sup> intelligence gathering for abroad and which
- 8 checked these systems.
- 9 So with respect to this question which
- we are dealing here, if I generalize it I would
- say we are more open to applying these
- 12 fundamental rules. We do not reject it as it's
- not applicable. We don't go into these
- 14 (inaudible) stay out of it. We would apply it,
- but then we have a proportionality principle and
- we check whether the things are justified.
- And for example, in this decision I
- mentioned, the court said, yes, dangers coming
- 19 from abroad are bigger, bigger dangers, and with
- 20 balances and this law was in general justified
- with one exception.
- It was applied also by law to internal

- 1 conflicts, and the constitutional court said it
- 2 cannot apply just like that.
- 3 So I think these are the main interests
- 4 which I could tell you. It's impossible to say
- better or worse. I would never, never do that.
- 6 MR. MEDINE: Thank you. Ms. Cook.
- 7 MR. DEMPSEY: We'll come back around.
- 8 MR. SIEBER: And if you permit
- 9 afterwards I would like to say a few words with
- 10 these International Convention 17, the
- applicability, but I don't want to --
- MR. MEDINE: We'll come around at the
- 13 end.
- 14 MS. COLLINS COOK: So I wanted to thank
- you all for coming and to congratulate you for
- being the panel that has come the farthest set of
- distances to participate today. I think it's very
- 18 helpful to have this type of discussion in an open
- 19 forum.
- We've talked a fair amount today and
- all through the day about skepticism about U.S.
- law and U.S. practices. I think it's fair to say

- 1 there is also a high degree of skepticism about
- the contours -- let me get closer here.
- I think it's fair to say that there's a
- 4 high degree of -- if I can get through this
- 5 question without hurting someone, this is really
- 6 going to be my goal for the day.
- 7 (Laughter)
- 8 MS. COLLINS COOK: There's a high
- 9 degree of skepticism about the contours and
- 10 applicability of international law as well. So
- 11 having experts who are able to speak to these
- issues is critical, I think, to us.
- And I wanted to draw off of something,
- 14 Professor Sieber, that you had mentioned and I
- 15 have to confess it was not a focus of mine coming
- into today. I had been focused on the ICCPR and
- the potential applicability of Article 17.
- But you talked about the interests of
- 19 states, and if I understood what you said
- correctly, that the interest of a state in its own
- 21 sovereignty is inviolate, that surveillance by one
- 22 country in another country is a violation of that

- 1 sovereignty, there is no exception under customary
- international law that would make that any less of
- 3 a violation of the state's sovereign status or
- 4 rights.
- 5 So that's the academic point. That
- 6 would lead me to think that no one was conducting
- <sup>7</sup> surveillance on anyone else, that no country is
- 8 doing surveillance.
- 9 But as a practical matter I think it's
- 10 fair to say that every country is either engaging
- in foreign intelligence collection or attempting
- 12 to engage in foreign intelligence collection.
- So if you can explain to me how you can
- 14 have a principle of customary international law,
- 15 here the absence of an exception that is honored
- by not one country in the world, as I understand
- 17 it.
- MR. SIEBER: Yes, I remain with the
- 19 saying that there is no permission of espionage
- under international law because the principle of
- 21 self-defense, that needs an armed conflict for it.
- 22 It's not there for the ordinary case.

- 1 And customary law would require an
- opinio juris, the conviction of the people that
- 3 espionage is right.
- But our estimations, that are split.
- If we are considering our own law, we say, yes, we
- 6 do it and we give them a medal if they are
- <sup>7</sup> successful. If we are considering the other, we
- 8 say it's illegal.
- 9 So there are two regimes of law which
- 10 come to different results. We live with that but
- we cannot say that international law has a general
- view that we can, that we can do it.
- We have this problem in a very
- 14 interesting case with the German reunification
- because when the two parts of Germany came
- together, there have been people doing espionage
- in East Germany and they are now under our
- <sup>18</sup> jurisdiction.
- This question came up and here again
- the Constitutional Court said there is no general
- violation of international law, and I think you
- 22 agree with that. We have to live with this

- 1 conflict.
- 2 And in the global world that's normal.
- 3 The world is getting so diverse that we have many
- 4 conflicting regimes today now, so we can stand
- <sup>5</sup> with that.
- 6 MS. COLLINS COOK: So I guess my
- question, perhaps Mr. Bellinger, you can speak to
- 8 this, is it a violation of international law in
- <sup>9</sup> terms of infringing the interests of another state
- to engage in sort of foreign surveillance?
- MR. BELLINGER: I was going to jump on
- 12 that as well. And the answer to that I think is
- 13 clearly no. I am not aware of any country who
- 14 believes that the U.N. Charter's statement on the
- protection of territorial integrity and sovereign
- equality of states actually prohibits electronic
- surveillance of another country.
- 18 Certainly if that were the
- understanding of our senate that in becoming party
- to the U.N. Charter that prohibited us from spying
- on another country because it would violate their
- sovereign equality or territorial integrity, then

- we would get out of the U.N. Charter immediately.
- 2 But I am not aware that any other country believes
- 3 that as well.
- 4 So there is not, the principle of
- 5 territorial integrity and sovereignty would apply
- to, say, for example, use of force. International
- 7 law does not prohibit electronic surveillance or
- 8 spying. Domestic law may.
- And so that's really, you know, when we
- talk about international law, that basically means
- that there is a compact between countries. Judge
- 12 Wald knows this very well, you know. Countries
- have to have agreed that they are not going to do
- these things to each other.
- And in the U.N. Charter, the U.N.
- 16 Charter was not saying we promise not to spy upon
- one another, we were saying we promise not to use
- 18 force against one another.
- U.S. surveillance in another country
- 20 might violate the other country's law, but it is
- 21 not a violation of international law.
- MR. MEDINE: Let's go on to another

- 1 question. We'll give Ms. Brand a chance and then
- we'll come back.
- MR. SIEBER: Because I think I have to
- 4 contradict.
- 5 MS. BRAND: All right. Let's see if
- 6 this microphone will work now.
- 7 Thank you all for being here today.
- 8 One of the things I find frustrating about this
- 9 discussion, not here specifically but in general
- is that there is a tendency to not distinguish
- 11 between what is law and what is -- it's not
- working is it?
- And what is either what people would
- like to be the law or what is a matter of policy.
- 15 And John, thank you for making that
- distinction very clearly in your remarks.
- I was having a little bit of a harder
- time, Laura, following where you were moving from
- what you think is actually binding law to what is
- 20 not.
- 21 And so I wanted to know if we are
- looking, setting aside policy, aspirational policy

- 1 for a moment, if we were trying to determine
- whether what the government is doing under 702 is
- 3 legal, do you think there is some binding
- 4 international law instrument that affects that
- <sup>5</sup> questions?
- 6 MS. PITTER: Yes. I mean from my
- 7 position it is a violation of Article 17 of the
- 8 International Covenant on Civil and Political
- 9 Rights. The United States does not recognize
- that, and that's part of the problem.
- MS. BRAND: So let me just ask a
- 12 question then. If the U.S. government doesn't
- 13 recognize that, what is the body, what is the
- document, what is it that then makes that law
- binding on the U.S., on the agencies implementing
- 16 702?
- MS. PITTER: It's the treaty itself.
- 18 As Mr. Bellinger said, you know, a treaty is
- something that governments have agreed to abide by
- and to honor the commitments in the treaty in good
- 21 faith.
- MS. BRAND: And what is the body that

- 1 has the last say on the interpretation of the
- treaty, right? Because obviously the U.S.
- 3 government interprets the treaty differently from
- 4 the way you interpret the treaty.
- Is there some other body besides the
- 6 U.S. government itself whose interpretation of the
- <sup>7</sup> treaty is then binding on the way the U.S.
- 8 agencies implement it?
- 9 MS. PITTER: Well, the Human Rights
- 10 Committee is one of the most authoritative sources
- on this, but --
- MS. BRAND: But is it legally binding,
- 13 right? That's my question, not is it persuasive,
- 14 is it binding?
- MS. PITTER: I mean from the opinion of
- many other governments it is. The treaty is
- binding upon them. The United States does not
- 18 recognize the extraterritorial application of it.
- MS. BRAND: And this is an honest
- question, give me an example of a country that
- views the ICCPR to have extraterritorial
- 22 application with respect to surveillance of

- 1 foreigners abroad that itself that takes its own
- 2 advice or heeds its own interpretation.
- MS. PITTER: So this surveillance, as I
- 4 said, is a novel issue. It's not something that's
- been addressed by the case law, and especially not
- 6 since the revelations from Snowden which have
- <sup>7</sup> disclosed, I think even to policy makers in many
- 8 countries, the degree to which the law, the
- 9 domestic law on the books is actually being
- 10 applied, and the vastness of the programs, how
- much data is actually being collected.
- So it's a novel interpretation, I mean
- it's a novel question, as it is in the United
- 14 States --
- MS. BRAND: I'm sorry to cut you off
- but we have a strict timekeeper here, the
- 17 Chairman, and I want one last question.
- 18 I'm interested in your interpretation
- of what constitutes control and how being
- 20 surveilled essentially would put someone within
- $^{21}$  the control.
- My concern about that interpretation in

- 1 part is that I'm not sure what meaning is left in
- the phrase, under its jurisdiction. If the
- 3 statute talks about territory and jurisdiction, if
- 4 jurisdiction means something in addition to
- 5 territory, it seems like a meaningless phrase if
- 6 it can include surveillance.
- 7 MS. PITTER: Well, it is meaningless in
- 8 the sense that the United States has taken up,
- 9 used the technology to conduct surveillance on a
- very mass scale. So it affects an enormous number
- of people.
- The, you know, jurisdictional clause
- has been interpreted extra-territorially in the
- 14 context of detention and torture, in which a
- 15 smaller number of people have been affected. But
- when you're talking about surveillance --
- MS. BRAND: But detention, I mean
- someone being detained or tortured is, I would
- say, much more clearly within the control of the
- 20 government who has detained or is torturing them,
- 21 right?
- 22 So my question is when you get into

- 1 surveillance and the person is clearly not within
- the physical custody of the government in
- question, what is it within the ambit of the
- 4 treaty?
- 5 MS. PITTER: So you can look at it two
- 6 ways there. You know, their communications are
- yithin the effective control of the government and
- 8 so that's one way to look at the obligation.
- 9 But in addition, they have an
- obligation to ensure the rights within the
- 11 covenant territorially, but also to respect the
- 12 rights in the covenant extra-territorially.
- So although they are not necessarily
- bound, you know, to enact legislation domestically
- regarding, you know -- well, they're not
- 16 necessarily bound to ensure the rights of
- individuals with regards to privacy
- 18 extra-territorially, they are bound to respect
- 19 those rights extra-territorially.
- MS. BRAND: I see my time is up.
- MR. MEDINE: Mr. Garfield, in your
- 22 statement earlier you indicated that the

- 1 revelations about the surveillance programs,
- particularly 702, has had significant
- 3 international impact with regard to business
- 4 dealings with U.S. firms, and you proposed a
- 5 number of steps to ameliorate that, and I wanted
- 6 to ask you about some of them.
- 7 And you also mentioned one of them,
- 8 namely transparency in your remarks earlier. Do
- 9 you have thoughts about what level of transparency
- would be helpful to companies, but taking into
- 11 account national security concerns?
- 12 As you know, our first report on 215
- did recommend greater transparency, but in terms
- of disclosures that a company can make about
- surveillance requests from the U.S. government, so
- long as that took into account national security.
- 17 And I guess in particular if you have
- 18 comments on the agreement that was reached between
- 19 the Department of Justice and a number of firms,
- whether that agreement goes far enough and
- 21 provides sufficient detail to give comfort to
- business partners of those firms overseas.

- 1 MR. GARFIELD: Thank you for the
- question, first of all. The agreement with the
- Justice Department is viewed as a significant step
- 4 forward. There are additional steps that can be
- 5 taken that would be helpful as well.
- One is the level of detail that the
- 7 companies are able to share, including
- 8 disaggregation of data between Section 215 and
- <sup>9</sup> 702, or whether it's a national security letter.
- 10 So a greater level of granularity would be
- 11 helpful.
- The second part of that is it is not
- only important that the companies be able to share
- out information but that the government share
- information as well and provide greater
- transparency, which is often lost in these
- <sup>17</sup> discussions.
- The debate that's been taking place
- 19 today speaks to the importance of greater
- transparency because 702 already includes a number
- of protections that are not generally known,
- 22 particularly internationally.

- To Christopher Wolf's point, if they
- were more well-known it would be clearer the
- 3 extent to which steps are being taken in the
- 4 United States that are not necessarily being taken
- <sup>5</sup> in other countries.
- 6 MR. MEDINE: And you also recommended,
- 7 made a couple of other recommendations that you
- 9 put forward were oversight, the importance of
- 9 oversight and in discriminant collection.
- And I guess the question is in the 702
- program isn't there already oversight through the
- 12 Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court and some
- of the internal government processes?
- 14 And with regard to indiscriminate
- 15 collection, I think as we heard earlier there has
- to be a foreign intelligence purpose, and so it's
- somewhat constrained. Do you think that with
- regard to this program it meets those
- 19 requirements?
- MR. GARFIELD: Correct. My
- 21 recommendations there weren't intended to suggest
- 22 that it in fact was indiscriminate. It was

- 1 suggested, it was a suggestion that taking steps
- 2 to be clear about the protections that are in
- 3 place and to the extent it is not, it is in fact
- 4 not indiscriminate, to reaffirm that would be
- 5 helpful as we go about doing our business
- 6 internationally.
- 7 MR. MEDINE: And Mr. Wolf, you analyzed
- 8 other country's laws and shown that they're not
- only not better but maybe not even as good as our
- laws by some criteria. What lessons should we
- draw from that in terms of how countries should
- 12 conduct their surveillance programs?
- MR. WOLF: So the purpose of our white
- paper and our research was really to be expository
- than to reach judgements and to pick winners and
- losers or to decide whose was better or best.
- But we thought it was important in
- 18 light of the claims that were being made,
- 19 particularly by the cloud industry in Europe that
- there is national security access obviously that
- goes on in the EU and elsewhere around the world,
- 22 and often without the controls and safeguards and

- 1 transparency that we have here.
- 2 So the overall conclusion that we
- 3 reached is that this is a global problem.
- 4 Obviously it's one that has been focused on
- 5 intensively here in the United States because of
- 6 the Snowden revelations, but it is an
- <sup>7</sup> international issue that needs to be resolved
- 8 internationally, particularly with the sharing
- 9 that goes on among intelligence authorities.
- 10 It is heartening that the European
- 11 Parliament in its resolution last week adopted the
- draft report that came out in January that focused
- on the European intelligence gathering practices.
- We hope that the data protection
- authorities in Europe who've been vigorous critics
- of the NSA practices will comment on their own
- country's practices. They've been relatively
- 18 silent on that, and we think the debate that has
- to be made should be among all those interested in
- 20 privacy protection, and obviously that would
- include the privacy commissioners abroad.
- MR. MEDINE: Obviously countries have a

- 1 lot of self-interest in conducting surveillance
- programs. Do you see a forum in which countries
- 3 can or even should agree with the methods by which
- 4 they conduct surveillance?
- 5 MR. WOLF: So that's well above my pay
- 6 grade. I really don't have a view on that.
- 7 I do have, if I can just mention on the
- 8 transparency point, we did a white paper in August
- 9 that then general counsel of the Commerce
- 10 Department Kerry cited in his speech at the German
- 11 Marshall Fund that actually showed on a per capita
- 12 basis access by national security and law
- enforcement on a per capita basis is larger
- outside the United States in many instances.
- MR. MEDINE: Judge Wald.
- MS. WALD: I have two questions for
- 17 Ms. Pitter. Given what most or many observers
- 18 concede are widely varying practices in different
- 19 countries about surveilling their own and other
- 20 country's citizens, would you advocate, as we
- 21 sitting here have to make some observations, maybe
- recommendations on 702, would you advocate that we

- unilaterally, we recommend unilaterally putting in
- 2 place one and the same protections for non-U.S.
- 3 person surveillance that we have for U.S.
- 4 citizens? Or two, raising the non-U.S. citizen
- 5 person protections to the level that the official
- 6 bodies of these international organizations that
- 7 we've talked about say they should be?
- If you come out on the second, what
- 9 specific criteria do we have to go on as to what
- 10 those practices would be?
- In other words, there's a slightly
- 12 cynical end to the question, what would be the
- additional protections in real time to privacy
- interests of non-U.S. persons if the U.S. took a
- position that the ICCPR does apply to our
- activities outside territorial U.S., but that
- we've already met those standards, such as seems
- to be the case with some of the other countries
- who espouse the official broader interpretation of
- 20 ICCPR but then go on their way, as Mr. Wolf
- suggested, and don't really raise those?
- MS. PITTER: This is to me?

- MS. WALD: Yes, this is to you.
- MS. PITTER: So, I mean I think one
- 3 clear change that needs to be made is the purpose
- 4 of the surveillance needs to be much more
- 5 targeted. The definition of foreign intelligence
- 6 information is just much too broad. It
- <sup>7</sup> encompasses, you know, things that, conversations
- 8 that could be just about generally the foreign
- <sup>9</sup> affairs of the United States.
- 10 And I know we heard in the panel
- 11 testimony earlier that that is somewhat reined in
- 12 by certifications but those are not public and
- we've not seen them.
- There should be a lot more transparency
- in the law. I think the difference in the German
- law is that there is a lot more transparency. The
- capacity also is less in Germany. I mean the U.S.
- has vast capacity, so you know it affects a lot
- more people.
- But definitely a more narrow, a more
- targeted approach, and applying, you know,
- 22 necessary and proportionate principles to the

- 1 surveillance as well, I think would go a long way.
- There's probably plenty of room for
- 3 recommendations. I probably can't get into all of
- 4 them here but that would be --
- 5 MS. WALD: In general would your
- standard be that there should be a presumption
- 7 that we treat non-U.S. persons like U.S. persons
- 8 in our surveillance activities, or rather that we
- 9 go to the best practices we can pull from that
- 10 people who endorse the ICCPR, even if we don't
- 11 actually endorse that application?
- 12 MS. PITTER: So I think that there can
- be differences in the law itself but it has to,
- the differences have to be ones that don't impair
- the impact of the right itself.
- So the right to privacy has to be part
- of, it has to be made part and parcel of the
- assurances, but they can be different for
- 19 practical reasons when it comes to --
- MS. WALD: Can you give us, in my
- remaining few seconds, some application of what
- you've just said to 702?

MS. PITTER: Well, I'd like to go into, you know, a more detailed analysis here but right 3 now there's --4 MS. WALD: Well, just quickly. 5 MS. PITTER: There's not a warrant requirement, for example, under 702 for 6 7 individuals, but there should be -- it may be that it's not a practical requirement to have a warrant for individuals outside of the United States. 9 And it's not just individuals under 10 702, it's also facilities and about targeting as 11 12 well. 13 But the procedures that are in place to protect against sort of suspicionless, you know, 14 15 there's no standard for what authority has to find 16 before it can target an individual. The main 17 distinguishing principle is that it's a foreigner, and that that information is going to be acquired 18 19 for foreign intelligence purpose, for foreign 20 intelligence purpose, so that is too broad. 21 MS. WALD: Okay. MS. PITTER: Does that make sense?

MS. WALD: Yes. All right, very 2 quickly I guess, Mr. Wolf, your testimony, you 3 know, recited the report about the lesser, 4 basically the lesser protections most other countries including our close allies give to 6 privacy, at least despite some of their countries 7 adherence to the ICCPR's broader definition of privacy, yet you also note that the economic risks 9 to U.S.-based telecommunication companies from 10 threats both from competing companies inside those 11 countries and from the governments themselves that they may balkanize and insist on collection and 12 13 storage activities being conducted in-country 14 poses a real risk. 15 Is it above your pay grade to give us 16 some indication of what line or policies the U.S. 17 should follow given those two competing concerns? MR. WOLF: Well, I think our concern in 18 19 doing the work that we did on the white paper was 20 the misperception that was arising --

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MS. WALD: Let's assume you've done

those and that they are real, but also are real

21

- 1 the threats to the competitiveness of U.S.
- 2 companies if foreign governments and peoples get
- yery excited and want to keep everything inside
- 4 their own countries.
- MR. WOLF: So our position is that
- 6 they're deceiving themselves if they think that
- yhen they keep data presumably within the four
- 8 borders, four corners of their own country that
- 9 it's safer from surveillance, not only from their
- own surveillance authorities, but of course
- through the sharing arrangements from surveillance
- 12 authorities from elsewhere around the world, and
- that the Balkanization of data is not a useful
- 14 global phenomenon at all.
- MS. WALD: Well, what can the U.S., or
- what could we recommend they bring them together?
- MR. MEDINE: Judge, your time has
- 18 expired. Mr. Dempsey.
- MS. WALD: Right. You can think about
- 20 it.
- 21 (Laughter)
- MR. DEMPSEY: On my last round we were

- talking about what were, if any country's laws
- that did a better job here, and Mr. Garfield, you
- were ready to jump in. Do you remember what you
- 4 wanted to jump in on? I wanted to give you a
- 5 chance to make the point, if you still remember
- 6 what it was.
- 7 MR. GARFIELD: It really was the point
- 8 that was made in response, which is that in fact
- 9 our experience in carrying out our business is
- that there aren't many, if any, other countries
- that have as many safeguards in place.
- The lack of open discussion through
- 13 multinational engagement as well as transparency
- here in the U.S. furthers that false perception
- that somehow other nations are doing more than we
- are. And that is certainly something that whether
- through legislation or recommendations from the
- PCLOB, we can do something about.
- MR. DEMPSEY: The question for Laura
- 20 Pitter, a couple of other witnesses have raised
- this and a couple of times I grabbed for the book
- in order to raise it and didn't get a chance to,

- the definition of foreign intelligence, as I read
- it, it means information that relates to the
- 3 ability of the United States to protect against
- 4 actual or potential attack, grave hostile acts of
- 5 a foreign power, sabotage, international
- 6 terrorism, international proliferation of weapons
- of mass destruction, or clandestine intelligence
- 8 activities. None of those are too broad, I would
- 9 think.
- 10 And then it says, information with
- 11 respect to a foreign power or foreign territory
- that relates to the conduct of the foreign affairs
- of the United States.
- I mean isn't that precisely what
- foreign intelligence is supposed to be about,
- information with respect to what foreign countries
- are doing that might affect our foreign affairs?
- Why is that too broad?
- $^{19}$  MS. PITTER: I think that the first
- 20 category of information that you said could, it
- would be permissible. But the general foreign
- 22 affairs of the United States allows for the

- 1 collection of a vast amount of information that
- does not necessarily have any national security
- 3 purpose.
- 4 MR. DEMPSEY: No, but it has foreign
- 5 affairs purpose. It is by definition about the
- 6 intent of foreign governments, and are you saying
- 7 that other countries self-restrain themselves from
- 8 trying to understand what their adversaries are
- 9 doing, even in matters that don't involve attack
- 10 and so on?
- MS. PITTER: I mean if other country's
- laws are overbroad and vague then they're in
- violation of, you know, the International Covenant
- on Civil and Political Rights as well.
- MR. DEMPSEY: Well, I think John would
- say that if everybody is doing it, it probably
- isn't a violation of the treaty. Everybody didn't
- bind themselves not to do what they all were doing
- 19 at the time they bound themselves to the treaty.
- MS. PITTER: Well, you know, the
- revelations about how this is applied are just
- 22 coming out now and there are going to be

- 1 challenges and there already are challenges to the
- 2 law.
- And I think we're going to find that
- 4 there is room certainly for reining in the
- overbroadness of some of the statutes as they
- 6 exist right now.
- 7 I think that because it allows for the
- 8 communications of things that don't necessarily
- 9 have to do with national security, that it just,
- it's overbroad and it's impacting, you know, the
- 11 United States in other ways.
- MR. DEMPSEY: In what way is the
- 13 collection of information about foreign affairs
- 14 overbroad?
- MS. PITTER: Because it could be, you
- 16 know, someone talking about, you know, their
- opinions about the foreign affairs of the United
- 18 States --
- MR. DEMPSEY: Not someone talking about
- their opinions, it's the information with respect
- to a foreign power. So this is not Joe Schmoe in
- Germany saying I like or don't like the United

- 1 States, this is about what Germany thinks about
- 2 the United States.
- MS. PITTER: It merely has to relate to
- 4 the foreign affairs of the United States --
- 5 MR. DEMPSEY: Yes.
- 6 MS. PITTER: In my opinion it's too
- <sup>7</sup> broad. It allows in for much too broad a type of
- 8 communication.
- 9 MR. DEMPSEY: No, I'll yield. I'd like
- 10 to have another round, a third round if we could,
- 11 but I'll yield for now.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: Mr. Bellinger, I
- think you had put your finger up midway through
- that and I'd like to follow on this conversation
- as well because it struck me.
- 16 First, where would you draw the line?
- 17 And I'm struggling to determine what precisely is
- impermissible about collecting foreign
- intelligence in the category of foreign affairs as
- 20 set forth in FISA.
- MR. BELLINGER: Yeah, so thanks for
- that question. And I think this is a very

- 1 important point, and Judge Wald started it and you
- <sup>2</sup> have continued it.
- We have to be really very clear about
- 4 what international law is. International law is
- 5 not principles that we think would be fine, policy
- 6 principles that you and I might agree.
- 7 International law, if we are serious
- 8 about international law, and this actually is the
- 9 definition of international law, are things that
- nations agree to, to be bound by, by treaty or
- that is customary internationally, meaning that
- countries do it so often that everybody does it
- and they do it by a sense of binding legal
- 14 obligation.
- So two points here, and Judge Wald, I
- heard you say that while it is true that other
- countries actually take a broader definition of
- whether the ICCPR applies extra-territorially, I'm
- 19 not aware of any country in the world that
- 20 believes that the ICCPR actually binds them with
- 21 respect to electronic surveillance, that that
- 22 right to privacy in Article 17 actually limits

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- their ability to conduct electronic surveillance
- of foreign nationals. So that is just not a
- 3 treaty obligation that countries have accepted,
- 4 even under the ICCPR.
- It might be something that human rights
- 6 groups wish were the case, but it is not something
- 7 that governments have accepted, and certainly not
- 8 something the United States government has
- 9 accepted.
- 10 And then just one more round on the
- Human Rights Committee. Again, the treaty itself
- does not say that the decisions of the Human
- 13 Rights Committee, which is basically a group of
- 14 academic experts, are binding. Governments who
- write treaties know how to write language.
- 16 For example, the U.N. Charter says that
- we undertake to comply with rulings of the ICJ.
- 18 But the human rights monitoring groups, countries
- 19 have not said that we undertake to comply with
- their decisions.
- And in fact, the senate, and all of you
- 22 know this, the senate would never agree to cede

- 1 responsibility for the future interpretation of a
- treaty to a group of academic experts. That would
- 3 take completely out of the hands of the shared
- 4 understanding between the executive and senate,
- 5 the interpretation of a treaty.
- 6 So you know, the United States, and
- 7 this is the view of the Obama administration as
- 8 well, you know, recognizes that other people may
- 9 not agree on the extraterritorial application of
- the ICCPR, but you know, no country believes that
- the ICCPR actually limits electronic surveillance.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: So I just wanted to
- as a follow-up question to Ms. Pitter. Thank you.
- 14 I know we've aimed a lot of our questions at you.
- 15 I think there's a sense within the
- United States government, a little bit of
- exasperation, the concern is that our surveillance
- lacks transparency or that we are somehow outside
- the mainstream of what other countries are doing.
- 20 And I look at 702 in particular and I
- see something where our legislative branch has
- 22 specifically said exactly what our executive

- 1 branch can do. The executive branch, which is
- 2 headed by democratically accountable individuals
- then oversees the execution of that authority, it
- 4 is subject to the oversight of the judicial branch
- 5 and it is subject to the oversight of our
- 6 legislative branch.
- 7 So I guess my question is systemically
- 8 what else could the United States be doing to help
- <sup>9</sup> build the confidence and trust of other countries?
- MS. PITTER: So the oversight so far
- 11 has all been in secret. I think that's one
- 12 problem. I mean even the first panel today said
- they were in the process of declassifying a large
- 14 number of documents and they were looking at doing
- that because they recognize the importance of
- 16 transparency.
- The oversight has not, I mean if you
- look at what happened with 215, even --
- MS. COLLINS COOK: I was talking about
- 20 Section 702, which is the focus of our --
- MS. PITTER: We don't know the details
- of the oversight regarding 702, so the only

- information I have about oversight would be
- <sup>2</sup> regarding 215. And we saw that the judicial
- oversight in that context, you know, would up,
- 4 there was an opinion that had an impact on the
- <sup>5</sup> vast number of communications of Americans that
- 6 was kept secret from the Americans, so --
- 7 MS. COLLINS COOK: Well, let me push
- 8 back a little bit on this notion that the
- 9 oversight is not transparent.
- So again, we have a statute that tells
- 11 the world exactly what the executive branch must
- 12 present to the judiciary, what findings the
- judiciary must make, what authority judiciary has
- vis-a-vis that application, and the framework for
- 15 this surveillance.
- We have a public statute that also
- tells you exactly what the executive branch is
- obligated to share with Congress. So where's the
- 19 lack of transparency in that?
- MS. PITTER: Well, the judicial
- oversight for the 702 program is annual. They
- look at just the procedures. They don't actually

- 1 look at the individual targeting requirements.
- That's done by an NSA analyst at his computer
- 3 desk.
- 4 MS. COLLINS COOK: Actually I think if
- you were here for the first panel the testimony by
- 6 the first panel was that that is not in fact the
- 7 case, that it is an ongoing process of oversight.
- 8 There are regular reporting requirements, both to
- <sup>9</sup> the court and to the Congress, so.
- 10 MS. PITTER: I was, I did hear the
- 11 first panel, and I believe he said that those
- targeting decisions by the analysts are reviewed
- eventually, but it's not something that's done at
- 14 the beginning. So the --
- MS. COLLINS COOK: So if there's not
- 16 public review of specific targeting decisions, so
- this, the United States government saying we would
- 18 like to collect foreign intelligence information
- 19 about this specific selector, that's a lack of
- transparency that is problematic for you?
- MS. PITTER: Well, the transparency,
- even the certifications that the FISC court gets,

- there's no, they don't even see the identifiers or
- the selectors, they just approve the procedures.
- 3 So you know, that's a problem with the oversight.
- 4 In terms of --
- MR. MEDINE: I'm going to let Ms. Brand
- 6 pick up since we're at time. So thank you.
- 7 MS. BRAND: Okay. I guess maybe this
- question is directed at John but if anyone wants
- <sup>9</sup> to jump in, that's fine.
- 10 If the ICCPR did have application to
- the U.S. government surveillance of non-U.S.
- 12 persons abroad, setting aside the territorial
- issue for a minute, what does privacy mean in that
- 14 context?
- I have found the lack of a universally
- accepted definition of privacy very frustrating
- 17 writ large across everything that we do, and I
- 18 mean the same issue pertains here. So I guess is
- 19 there a universally accepted definition of
- 20 privacy? Is there a definition of privacy that is
- 21 binding on the U.S. government? If not, how would
- we find, who would supply such a definition? If

- 1 you can sort of help us understand that.
- MR. BELLINGER: Yeah, so that's a great
- 3 question. And that's really the third prong. I
- 4 mean the reason that the ICCPR doesn't apply is,
- one, there's the within its territory and subject
- 6 to its jurisdiction. Then even if it were subject
- <sup>7</sup> to our jurisdiction, then it has to be within the
- 8 power and control.
- And you know, no one is really going to
- 10 legitimately argue that, as I think you said
- earlier, power and control in the view of those
- who take that interpretation of power and control
- is someone that you actually physically have in
- 14 your custody, not electronic surveillance.
- 15 And then there's the issue, even if
- those applied, is something unlawful or arbitrary
- violation of privacy? And there are not
- definitions that are universally accepted.
- 19 You know, people can argue about these
- things but for it to be law that a country
- 21 actually violates, there has to be an agreed
- definition on privacy and there has to be an

- 1 agreed definition on what is arbitrary, and there
- just are not those definitions.
- You know, again, someone can say that
- 4 someone has an absolute right not to have any
- 5 country pry into anything that they're doing and
- 6 that that's a violation of their privacy, but
- <sup>7</sup> there's not an accepted definition of that.
- I mean I could frankly imagine if one
- 9 were to accept the first part of your premise,
- which is that it were to apply extra-
- territorially, and let's also say that it were
- someone within the U.S. jurisdiction, let's say
- someone, the United States is actually holding a
- 14 terrorist in another country and we agreed that
- the ICCPR applied, we agreed the person was within
- our power and control, and then we were to do
- extensive interviews of that person about the
- person's private life, and then we just publish it
- willy-nilly, not as part of a criminal proceeding
- but essentially just as a leak, well, you know,
- there might be an argument that that might be an
- 22 arbitrary intervention with that person's right to

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privacy.
              But I think that's -- there's not a
    definition of privacy, or of arbitrary, or
3
4
    unlawful that is binding as a matter of
    international law.
6
              MS. BRAND: Chris or Laura, any
7
    thoughts on that question?
8
              MS. PITTER: Would you repeat that
9
    question again?
              MS. BRAND: Just what does privacy mean
10
11
    in the ICCPR context? Where does the definition
    come from? How would you find the definition?
12
13
              MS. PITTER: Well, it guards against
    unlawful and arbitrary interference with an
14
15
    individual's privacy, so there has to be a respect
16
    for correspondence, for example, and a respect for
17
    an individual's personal space, and there has to
    be an ability to have personal space to
18
19
    communicate.
20
              MS. BRAND: Where are you getting that
21
    definition?
              MS. PITTER: Well, that's, I mean
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- 1 that's coming from the interpretation of, the
- 2 right to privacy is connected to freedom of
- 3 expression, freedom of association. It impacts
- 4 that. And you know, the right to correspondence
- 5 comes from that as well. So I mean it's defined
- 6 in the treaty itself, and --
- 7 MS. BRAND: What is the definition?
- 8 Humor me.
- 9 MS. PITTER: I mean --
- MS. BRAND: I can look it up,
- 11 never mind. But it sounds like what you're giving
- me is sort of your sense of what privacy entails,
- not a sort of legally defined or legally
- 14 articulated definition. Chris?
- MR. WOLF: So a privacy lawyer's answer
- goes back to Brandeis and Warren who said the
- 17 right to privacy is the right to be left alone.
- 18 But they recognized and I think it's been
- recognized ever since, that was 1890, that there
- are exceptions for the good of society, for law
- 21 and order, for social good.
- 22 And that's really where the rubber hits

- the road. What are the permissible exceptions for
- 2 national security surveillance? And you know,
- 3 that's the discussion that needs to be had
- 4 globally.
- 5 You know, Judge Wald asked what should
- 6 the U.S. government do? I think it should promote
- 7 that discussion as a global matter, and at the
- 8 same time I think it should promote the decoupling
- 9 of national security surveillance from cross-
- 10 border data flows for commercial purposes.
- 11 The threat to withdraw safe harbor, for
- example, the declaration that the transatlantic
- trade and investment partnership shouldn't address
- data because of what happened with national
- security surveillance is a non sequitur.
- Those issues need to be dealt with
- between governments, but that shouldn't interfere
- with cross-border data flows, which have to have
- 19 privacy protections built-in, no question. But
- those are not something, that isn't something, the
- 21 surveillance issue is not something that the
- 22 companies themselves can really address and

- they've done about as much as they can in pushing
- <sup>2</sup> for transparency, pushing very hard.
- MR. MEDINE: Dean, did you want to add
- 4 something?
- 5 MR. GARFIELD: The question was asked
- 6 earlier about what the appropriate venue is and I
- 7 would say a reminder that the strategic and
- 8 economic dialogue didn't exist beyond five years
- 9 ago, and so this is one issue that's getting left
- behind in the discussion, the importance of
- 11 creating a framework and a venue for greater
- multinational dialogue around the surveillance
- issue. And I think the PCLOB in its
- 14 recommendations can have a dramatic effect in this
- 15 area.
- 16 MR. SIEBER: It's clear that we have
- not an international definition because the
- 18 countries are too different. However, in the
- 19 countries and national law, and European law and
- in other legal bodies these definitions are
- emerging. And of course they have to develop.
- What is sure is that there is a core

- 1 area of privacy where we all would agree that
- 2 privacy is infringed. For example, if you
- directly do intelligence gathering on the sexual
- 4 life of somebody who is not a suspect, there's no
- 5 reason, that's a clear core area infringement of
- 6 privacy.
- Now if you go further, it's becoming of
- 8 course a difficult, mass surveillance of people
- 9 against which there is no suspicion would be one
- aspect where we'd have to investigate.
- 11 Another one is to create a complete
- 12 picture of the private life of somebody going back
- to his birth, whatever did he do, did he
- demonstrate in school? So collecting enormous
- mass of data on one person would be another
- aspect, just illustrating. There are cases which
- 17 fall under something like that.
- 18 And we should work on this definition
- and the fact that we do not have something like
- 20 that would not lead me to the conclusion we
- shouldn't go in these things.
- It's the same with this attitude on

- 1 extraterritorial application and things like that.
- These questions are so new that you cannot find
- 3 any government's position here. So for me, that's
- 4 not a valid argument. If you are pioneers on
- 5 these questions, we cannot say the governments are
- 6 not yet there.
- 7 I agree with you it's a political
- <sup>8</sup> question on this issue.
- 9 One final point where I do not agree
- what was said is the question with respect to
- 11 territoriality. If you are collecting data in a
- 12 foreign country from (inaudible) it's clear that's
- 13 legal. You are not infringing the foreign
- 14 territory.
- But if you go to a foreign territory
- and you switch on servers, you download countries
- 17 -- the electronic pulses, you are changing and you
- do a function that usually the police does, this
- is a clear infringement of territoriality.
- 20 And you can see this especially in the
- 21 cyber crime convention where we are fighting about
- these questions. We have Article 32 B with a big

- 1 struggle between the U.S. and Russia, which is
- bringing down the complete process of the cyber
- 3 crime convention. We all agree that except these
- 4 cases mentioned in Article 32 of the cyber crime
- 5 convention ratified by the U.S., any police
- 6 activities doing access to foreign countries are
- of course infringements of privacy. Nobody would
- 8 claim that this is legal. We could stop the
- 9 process of the cyber crime convention if your
- statement would be, all right, like that in this
- 11 generality.
- 12 So I would say that we have to
- 13 remain -- these surveillance activities do not in
- 14 any case infringe territoriality but there are
- many cases, especially looking at the cyber crime
- 16 convention, our agreements which we have on this
- 17 committee, we all would say that's a clear
- infringement of the sovereign territoriality of a
- 19 country. And it is also undisputed that the
- 20 protection of territoriality is guaranteed, not
- only by Article 2 of the U.N. Charter, but also by
- 22 customary law. It's one of the basic principles

- since the Westphalia Peace Accord.
- MR. MEDINE: Let's give John a chance
- 3 to respond.
- 4 MR. BELLINGER: I'll be brief. On the
- second point, again I would say that I don't think
- 6 any country in the world would say that the
- 7 Article 2 of the U.N. Charter's protection of the
- 8 territorial integrity and sovereignty of states
- 9 would mean that they cannot conduct essentially
- 10 espionage activities from anywhere. I just don't
- think that's what the U.N. Charter says.
- But more importantly, the first thing
- 13 you said really goes to the heart of our
- 14 discussion here, where you said this is an
- 15 evolving national dialogue about privacy and it is
- a dialogue that is going on nationally in
- different countries, and it therefore is going on
- 18 internationally.
- But the question at least that was put
- to several of us, to me and Laura in particular
- is, is there a binding international law standard
- 22 right now? And the answer to that is clearly no.

- Germany may have laws inside Germany,
- given its particular past. Other countries may
- 3 have particular national laws. Sooner or later
- 4 countries may get together and agree on things,
- 5 but right now there is not an international legal
- 6 standard, either in the ICCPR or anywhere else
- 7 that limits electronic surveillance from the
- 8 United States, or again, from any other country.
- 9 Other countries would not agree that
- there's not an international legal standard -- or
- that there is an international legal standard.
- MR. MEDINE: We have time for just a
- 13 quick round that Jim had requested. Let me just
- 14 ask just to clarify one point, John, the treaty
- 15 ICCPR is not self-executing. What does that mean
- and is there any forum in which enforcement action
- could take place?
- 18 MR. BELLINGER: That means that it
- would require implementing legislation for it to
- be, so it's binding as a matter of international
- 21 law and we have implemented it already and are in
- 22 compliance with it in certain ways because of laws

- that we already had on our books, or might thereby
- 2 have our Congress pass. But it does not have
- 3 automatic legal effect merely by the United States
- 4 becoming party to it.
- MR. MEDINE: And is there any forum in
- 6 the world where we could be held accountable for
- 7 compliance with the ICCPR?
- MR. BELLINGER: The U.N. Human Rights
- 9 Committee monitors our compliance and comments
- upon things that we are doing. That's what
- 11 happened last week when we presented our report.
- 12 And the United States commented on or responded to
- these comments, but that's not judicially or
- 14 legally enforceable.
- MR. MEDINE: Thanks. Judge Wald.
- MS. WALD: Just a quick comment. Am I
- 17 not right, John, that not in this context of
- surveillance, but hasn't England at times relied
- in some of its judicial decisions on the ICCPR for
- the, to disallow, I think in dealing with some
- detainees or asylum people, etcetera?
- 22 So my impression was there are courts

- who have actually relied upon the ICCPR, not in
- the surveillance context but in other contexts.
- MR. BELLINGER: You and I would have to
- 4 look at those together. It may have been the
- 5 European Convention on Human Rights. There has
- 6 been a fair amount of jurisprudence recently on
- 7 the extent to which the European Convention on
- 8 Human Rights creates obligations on British and
- 9 European forces who actually do have someone
- within their control of their military outside of
- 11 Britain, or Germany, or elsewhere.
- MS. WALD: Okay. I'll let you off.
- 13 Very quickly I have one question, quickly, for
- 14 Mr. Garfield, and that is that the statement that
- 15 your organization provided to us spoke of the need
- 16 for meaningful oversight by an independent body in
- government as to the surveillance programs,
- including access to collected data.
- Just wondered very quickly, who you had
- in mind, was it the IGs, us, FISA, Congress? Did
- 21 you have particular independent bodies who would
- 22 provide the meaningful insight, which included in

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your statement oversight of collected, access to
2
    the collected data?
3
               MR. GARFIELD: We did not.
4
              MS. WALD: Okay, that's a succinct
    answer.
6
              MR. MEDINE: Gives you a concise
7
    answer.
8
              MR. DEMPSEY: Rather than a question
9
    I'll just offer an invitation, which is if any of
    the witnesses could provide us with guidance on
10
    the question I posed, what would be a better way
11
    of structuring a foreign intelligence system.
12
13
               I think at the end of the day any
    concept of law, any set of rules is going to
14
    recognize that different countries are going to
15
```

- 21 Has anybody put together or could
- 22 anybody put together a list of the elements of a

States. The United States believes it has a

have somewhat different structures. So the German

structure is robust but different from the United

robust system with different elements than Germany

17

18

19

20

has, etcetera.

- 1 system and then some sense of how you come up with
- what is the minimum?
- We talked a lot about judicial
- 4 oversight but Germany does not have. The court
- 5 reviews the statutory structure but not the
- 6 individual implementation, does not do individual
- <sup>7</sup> targeting on the strategic surveillance in
- 8 Germany. In the U.K. it's all administerial, not
- <sup>9</sup> judicial.
- Secondly, if any further thoughts on
- 11 how we get from here to there. So several
- witnesses have said it's an evolving situation.
- We have new questions, questions which to my view
- 14 are not answered in the existing documents. Let's
- just say that it's not answered. They don't
- apply. No one thought about this. It hasn't been
- answered. How do we move forward, we, the world,
- or maybe the U.S. and Europe, which have more
- shared values than we sometimes admit, how do we
- move forward in getting that kind of commitment?
- 21 And the industry in Garfield's paper is
- that a global, I think implicitly recognizes we

- 1 need global understanding, even if not all of the
- 2 laws are the same.
- 3 So any thoughts that you can offer us.
- 4 Not right now because we want to move along, but
- 5 any further follow-up thoughts you could offer us
- in writing, please, it would be very helpful on
- both of those points.
- MS. COLLINS COOK: I just wanted to
- 9 thank you all for coming. As I said at the
- 10 beginning I think it's important to have these
- discussions. I won't assign homework or request
- 12 any follow-up, but it's an education process for
- us, as well as for the American people,
- 14 particularly on these issues.
- So if there is information you think
- should be a part of the public record, which will
- 17 remain open, I'm sure David will explain, it is
- welcomed.
- MS. BRAND: I won't take up anymore of
- your time since we are at the end of our schedule
- here. But I want to thank all of you for coming.
- 22 It was very helpful to me, so thank you for taking

- the time to prepare and to be here.
- MR. MEDINE: Thanks again to all the
- 3 speakers and the Board staff that made this
- 4 hearing possible. The Board's activities for
- 5 today are now complete.
- The Board encourages all those who are
- <sup>7</sup> interested to submit, panelists and members of the
- 9 public, to submit written comments on this topic
- 9 at our website of www.regulations.gov. And the
- deadline for submitting comments is March 28th.
- 11 All comments submitted will be available for
- 12 review by the public. A transcript of today's
- hearing will be posted on PCLOB.gov.
- 14 And I will now move to adjourn the
- hearing. All in favor of adjourning the hearing
- 16 please say aye.
- 17 (Aye)
- MR. MEDINE: Upon receiving unanimous
- consent to adjourn, we will now adjourn. The time
- 20 is 3:40. Thank you.
- 21 (Whereupon, at 3:40 p.m., the hearing
- was adjourned.)

313 CERTIFICATION 3 I, LYNNE LIVINGSTON, A Notary Public of the State of Maryland, Baltimore County, do hereby 6 certify that the proceedings contained herein were 7 recorded by me stenographically; that this transcript is a true record of the proceedings. I further certify that I am not of counsel to any of the parties, nor in any way 10 11 interested in the outcome of this action. 12 As witness my hand and notarial seal this \_\_\_\_\_, day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2013. 13 14 15 Lynne Livingston 16 Notary Public 17 My commission expires: December 10, 2014 18 19 20 21 22

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