

## **Kareem Shora**

Kareem W. Shora, JD, LL.M. is Senior Policy Advisor and Section Lead of the Community Engagement Section with the US Department of Homeland Security (DHS) Office of the Secretary, Office for Civil Rights and Civil Liberties (CRCL), in Washington, DC. In his position, Shora serves as a key expert and advisor, represents the Department at high-level meetings with executives from other government agencies, Congressional staff, and non-governmental organizations, and provides expert analysis to propose and support leadership decisions such as justifying or settling matters involving significant and controversial program policies of national scope and impact. Shora also supervises the staff of the Community Engagement Section in their responsibilities and strengthens and builds strategic partnerships with key ethnic and religious communities through outreach and related activities that respond to public concerns regarding the policies and practices of DHS. He is responsible for creating effective channels of communication that allow for the rapid dissemination of information to those key communities in the event of a national security incident and assesses existing and proposed DHS programs, policies and activities for civil rights and civil liberties compliance, with a focus on possible disparate impact on key communities.

Shora joined DHS in October, 2009, after a ten-year tenure with the American-Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) where he served as legal advisor, legal director, and national executive director. In June of 2009, he was appointed by Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano as a member of the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC); the official advisory body for the DHS Secretary on homeland security matters. Shora is also a member of the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) Heritage Community Liaison Council. His experience includes serving as a guest lecturer at the Yale University School of Law. He was also certified as an expert witness on xenophobia and anti-Arab discrimination by the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, Central District of California. Shora is a recipient of the 2003 American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA) "Arthur C. Helton Human Rights Award" and has been published by the National Law Journal, TRIAL Magazine, the Georgetown University Law Center's Journal on Poverty Law and Public Policy, the Harvard University JFK School of Government Asian American Policy Review, the American Bar Association (ABA) Air and Space Lawyer, and the Yeshiva University Cardozo Public Law Policy and Ethics Journal among others.

A frequent guest on Al-Jazeera, Al Arabiya, BBC, and numerous American television programs, Shora has spoken about civil rights, civil liberties, immigration, and national security policy with many national and international media outlets. He has also testified before major international human rights bodies including regular testimonies before the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), where he was routinely consulted as a subject-matter expert on tolerance, diversity and integration. He was selected by the Ford Foundation as a member of the Foreign Policy Task Force designing their 2008 Laboratory for New Thinking on Foreign Policy. He was also selected by the Police Foundation to be part of their 2008 Advisory Board on the study of the role of local police in immigration enforcement. Shora was also the civil society representative on the G8 Experts Roundtable on Diversity, Integration, and the Prevention of Terrorism. Born in Damascus, Syria and fluent in Arabic, Shora is a native of Huntington, West Virginia, a graduate of Marshall University and holds a Doctor of Jurisprudence (JD) degree from the West Virginia University (WVU) College of Law and the LL.M. specialty in International Legal Studies (Public International Law) from the American University Washington College of Law.