

Our Values at Stake
Part III: Terrorizing Communities Without Warrants and No Restraint

Selected Excerpts from the Prepared Testimony of Ryan Schwank

“I believe that a good immigration enforcement system requires dedicated and professional officers who know their legal duties and understand the limits of their authority and role. This is why I profoundly regret the need to be here today.”

“I am duty bound to tell you the ICE Basic Immigration Enforcement Training Program is now deficient, defective, and broken.”

“Without reform, ICE will graduate thousands of new officers who do not know their constitutional duty, do not know the limits of their authority, and do not have the training to recognize an unlawful order.”

“Law enforcement is a deadly serious business. It is not a place for hyperbole, exaggeration, or falsehoods. Deficient training can and will get people killed. It can and will lead to unlawful arrests, violations of constitutional rights, and a fundamental loss of public trust in law enforcement. ICE is lying to Congress and the American people about the steps it is taking to ensure its 10,000 new officers faithfully uphold the Constitution and can perform their jobs.”

Ryan Schwank was an attorney and instructor for Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE). Mr. Schwank is an experienced attorney, knowledgeable in risk assessment and oversight of law enforcement organizations.

In 2021, Mr. Schwank was hired as an Assistant Chief Counsel for the ICE Office of the Principal Legal Advisor (OPLA). His duties included representing ICE in proceedings before the Executive Office of Immigration Review (EOIR). Mr. Schwank also served as the onsite legal advisor to the ICE South Texas Family Residential Center in Dilley, Texas. In 2025, he became an Instructor for the incoming “surge” of new ICE recruits at the ICE Academy at the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (“FLETC”) in Glynco, Georgia. As an ICE Academy instructor, Mr. Schwank was responsible for teaching the legal curriculum. Mr. Schwank resigned from his position at ICE on February 13, 2026.

Prior to his service at FLETC, Mr. Schwank supervised performance audits and risk management for criminal justice operations in Denver, Colorado. Before that he was an attorney in private practice representing clients in immigration proceedings, civil litigation, and advising on business operations.

Education:

B.A. Political Science (Western Kentucky University)

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