



## **FRANCINE KERNER**

### **Chief Counsel, Transportation Security Administration**

Francine Kerner assumed the position of Chief Counsel at the Transportation Security Administration in January 2002. She advises senior officials on all legal matters relating to protection of the nation's transportation systems.

As TSA's first Chief Counsel, she was responsible for providing legal advice and services in connection with the largest mobilization of a civilian government agency since World War II. This mobilization resulted in the hiring, training, equipping and deploying of more than 60,000 employees to more than 450 locations in less than a year and the execution of a three-year budget in excess of \$16 billion.

As part of TSA's senior management team, she helped lead the effort to secure and successfully restore confidence in civil aviation following the September 11, 2001, attacks, working with senior Bush Administration officials, Congress and stakeholders to enhance security in all modes of transportation. As Chief Counsel, Kerner has built a nationwide legal office, hiring attorneys and support personnel from over 56 government agencies, private firms and corporations.

Before joining TSA, Kerner held a variety of senior legal positions at the departments of Commerce and Treasury. In her previous position as Deputy Assistant General Counsel for enforcement at Treasury, she provided counsel on a wide range of sensitive and complex matters involving Treasury law enforcement agencies.

Before joining the federal government in 1979, Kerner served as an Assistant District Attorney in the Kings County District Attorney's Office in Brooklyn, N.Y.

In 2021, Kerner was awarded her second Presidential Meritorious Rank Award for significant and lasting contributions to TSA and the Federal Government. Kerner received her first Presidential Meritorious Rank Award in 2001 for her outstanding contributions as a federal attorney. In 2013, Kerner was named the recipient of the Beatrice Rosenberg Award for Excellence in Government Service and also received the Burton Award for legal achievement in public service. She is a graduate of New York University School of Law and Queens College in New York City.