



Reiss Center on Law and Security

2018-19 Year in Review

Today's national security landscape is characterized by rapid change and disruption. This year, we ushered in a number of exciting changes to our work to reflect how the larger context of national security law and policy has evolved in the decade-and-a-half since the Center's inception.

Redefining who we are and what we do

- We relaunched with a new name: the Reiss Center on Law and Security, honoring the generous support of the family of NYU Law alumni Rick Reiss and his late wife Bonnie Feldman Reiss.
- We introduced a renewed [program of study](#) examining:
 - National Security at Home: Domestic Law, Policy and Process;
 - Use of Force and Emerging Security Threats; and
 - National Security in a Shifting Geopolitical Context.
- We welcomed new [leadership](#) and assembled a distinguished [cohort](#) of new fellows and affiliates.



Rick Reiss (center) with Reiss Center directors David Golove, Ryan Goodman, Rachel Goldbrenner, Trevor Morrison and Stephen Holmes at the 2018 fall conference

Convening smart, timely discussions

We hosted a wide range of public and private events and programming throughout the year, aimed at provoking dialogue on some of the most urgent and complex national security challenges facing the United States and the world. Highlights included:

- Our signature, full-day fall conference, [National Security and Shifting Geopolitics: Challenges at Home and Abroad](#), featuring speakers such as Avril Haines, John Bellinger, Jake Sullivan, Chris Hayes and Lisa Monaco. Panels throughout the day focused on competing visions for a rules-based order; national security and the 2018 midterm elections; and national security journalism in an age of disinformation.
- A panel titled [Probing Mueller: The Russia Investigations and the Road Ahead](#), featuring a discussion between Ryan Goodman, Natasha Bertrand and Preet Bharara on the eve of the release of the Mueller report.
- Several book talks featuring prominent authors discussing their most recent works, including former Assistant Attorney General for National Security [John Carlin](#); former State Department Legal Adviser [Harold Koh](#); and journalist [Jason Rezaian](#).
- The inaugural event in our series on [National Security and the Rise of Populism](#), led by author and RCLS fellow Yascha Mounk and featuring Dame Karen Pierce, U.K. Ambassador to the UN.
- Our private salon dinner series, convening legal and foreign policy experts together to discuss and debate timely topics in the field, such as [U.S. troop drawdown in Syria and Afghanistan](#); [U.S.-Saudi relations in the aftermath of the Khashoggi murder](#); and [Flashpoints in Iran and Venezuela](#).

Fostering student community and leadership

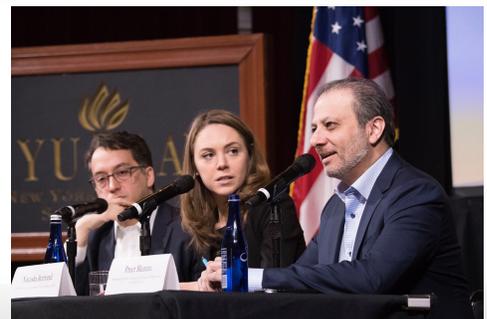
The Reiss Center serves as the cornerstone of the law school's myriad resources for those interested in studying national security and pursuing related careers. As part of our commitment to mentoring and training the next generation of national security professionals, this year we initiated several exciting programs exclusively for NYU Law students:

- The [RCLS Student Scholars Program](#), providing NYU Law students research and mentorship opportunities in the field of national security law and policy.
- An intimate, informal five-session career series, [A Road Less Traveled: National Security Careers After Law School](#), featuring prominent figures working in various national security sectors. Speakers discuss their career paths and lend advice to interested NYU Law students.

The Reiss Center gathers leading experts to confront the most pressing law and security questions we face.



(Left) Former DNSA Avril Haines discusses national security and the shifting rules of global engagement with former Director of Policy Planning Jake Sullivan, along with former Legal Adviser John Bellinger and Dean Trevor Morrison (not pictured)



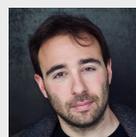
(Right) Professor Ryan Goodman, journalist Natasha Bertrand and former U.S. Attorney Preet Bharara discuss the special counsel investigation into Russian interference in the 2016 election

Informing the law and policy debate

- This year marked the inception of our partnership with [Just Security](#), the online forum on law, rights and U.S. national security, which is now based at the Reiss Center.
- Our fellows and affiliates were also active in the public discourse, producing a wide range of articles, serving as expert sources and appearing on a number of podcasts and news programs. Some of the year's highlights are included below, and a full list can be found on the [Publications](#) page of our website.



RCLS Faculty Director **Ryan Goodman** examined in the [New York Times](#) the legal rationale offered by the Trump Administration for withholding the unredacted Mueller report from Congress.



Non-Resident Senior Fellow **Yascha Mounk** in [The New Yorker](#) explored the connection between a high-profile tragedy, emerging ideological clashes and shifting conceptions of national security in Germany.



Non-Resident Senior Fellow **Nick Rasmussen** unpacked myth and reality about terrorists and the southern border in [Just Security](#).



Reiss Center senior fellows **Tess Bridgeman**, **Rebecca Ingber** and **Steve Pomper** wrote in [Just Security](#) on Iran, AG Barr's expansive views of presidential power and steps Congress can take to defuse the threat of war.



Distinguished Senior Fellow **Lisa Monaco** argued in the [Washington Post](#): We've declared war on foreign terrorism. Why not do the same for domestic threats?