



**David Risley**  
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David Risley is the Ethics Officer of the Illinois Department of Transportation, where he is also a Senior Assistant Chief Counsel. Prior to joining IDOT in 2016, he served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Central District of Illinois for over 30 years, prosecuting mostly large-scale organized crime and two major terrorism cases.

From November 2005 to August 2006, he served a U.S. Department of Justice detail as an Attorney-Advisor to the Iraqi High Tribunal in its investigations and prosecutions of crimes committed by Saddam Hussein and high-ranking members of his former regime, especially with regard to crimes against humanity and genocide committed against the Marsh Arabs in southern Iraq.

In 2009, he was awarded the Attorney General's Distinguished Service Award for his work as lead prosecutor in the terrorism case against Ali al-Marri, an *al Qaeda* sleeper agent captured in the United States shortly after the 9/11 terrorist attacks. In another case, he prosecuted Michael Finton, a homegrown terrorist who attempted to blow up the Federal Building in Springfield, Illinois.

In his last Department of Justice assignment before retiring from federal service, he served as the DOJ's regional diplomatic Attaché and legal advisor based in the U.S. Embassy in Cairo, Egypt, during the tumultuous period from September 2010 (four months before the 2011 revolution) to April 2015.