

## **Nathaniel (Ted) Sobel – BIO**

**Deputy Assistant Secretary (A), Screening Coordination Office, DHS Office of Policy (PLCY/SCO)**

**U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)**

Ted Sobel is a policy and operations specialist for homeland security screening and credentialing programs. He currently serves as the Deputy Assistant Secretary for the DHS's Screening Coordination Office (SCO). SCO is responsible for coordinating the Department's screening and credentialing policies to: 1) facilitate legitimate travel and the issuance of immigration benefits; 2) deter, detect, and deny access to or withhold benefits from individuals who may pose a threat to the United States; and 3) ensure individual privacy and redress opportunities. SCO also manages the Visa Waiver Program (which allows citizens of partner countries that meet enhanced security requirements to travel visa free to the United States); and REAL ID (which supports the secure issuance and production of state-issued driver's license and ID cards).

Since joining SCO as Director for Credentialing in 2008 and Director for REAL ID in 2012, Mr. Sobel has played a key role in facilitating states becoming compliant with REAL ID, establishing CBP's Global Entry program, maturing the DHS Traveler Redress Inquiry Program, issuing emergency responder credentialing guidelines, and implementing the 2012 Executive Order on travel & tourism. Mr. Sobel received the 2013 DHS Thought Leadership Award for developing the REAL ID phased enforcement strategy and leading its implementation.

Formerly, Mr. Sobel worked in the private and government sectors. He was Program Manager for the Transportation Security Administration's Registered Traveler Program; Senior Change Management Consultant at IBM; Business Development Manager at BoardSource, a not-for-profit governance organization; Co-founder of Avir LLC, a homeland security start-up; Assistant Program Officer (Africa) at International Republican Institute, a not-for-profit that supports democracy development overseas; and Legislative Assistant to U.S. Senator Paul Coverdell for foreign policy, defense, trade, space, and technology.

Mr. Sobel earned an MBA from the Darden Graduate Business School and a BA with Honors in International Relations from the University of Pennsylvania. He is a certified level II program manager. Mr. Sobel graduated from the selective DHS Fellows Program in 2011 and the Naval Postgraduate School's cybersecurity certificate program in 2014.