

Janet Napolitano



Janet Napolitano is a Professor of Public Policy and Director of the Berkeley Institute for Security and Governance (BISG).

A distinguished public servant, Napolitano served as the president of the University of California from 2013 to 2020, as the US Secretary of Homeland Security from 2009 to 2013, as Governor of Arizona from 2003 to 2009, as Attorney General of Arizona from 1998 to 2003, and as US Attorney for the District of Arizona from 1993 to 1997. She earned her BS degree (summa cum laude in Political Science) in 1979 from Santa Clara University, where she was a Truman Scholar, and the university's first female valedictorian. She received her law degree in 1983 from the University of Virginia School of Law.

As Secretary of Homeland Security, she led the nation's efforts to secure its borders, prevent terrorist attacks, respond to natural disasters, and build domestic resiliency. She oversaw critical enhancements to aviation security, including initiatives - like the creation of TSA Pre✓® - that bolster security and improve the travel experience. Through the expansion of programs like Global Entry and pre-clearance, the Department

fortified our borders and helped to identify threatening individuals before they depart for the U.S. The Department also significantly enhanced the nation's readiness to meet and combat evolving cyber threats. During her time as Secretary, she also spearheaded the creation of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) initiative, creating hope and relief for thousands of undocumented young people across the nation. She was the first woman, and is to date the longest-serving, Secretary of Homeland Security. Under her leadership, the Department transformed its security capabilities, becoming a more efficient, cohesive and effective organization.

As UC President, she was a steadfast advocate for California students, working to stabilize in-state tuition and to enroll historic numbers of California undergraduates. In 2017, under Napolitano's leadership, the University of California was the first university in the country to file a lawsuit to stop the federal government's rescission of the DACA program. The injunctions the University received prohibiting the rescission of DACA were upheld by the US Supreme Court. Napolitano also upheld the university's legacy of leadership on global climate action, putting UC on a path to 100 percent reliance on clean electricity across all campuses and medical centers by 2025, the same year the university aims to achieve systemwide carbon neutrality. In 2017, she also spearheaded the formation of the University Climate Change Coalition, or UC3. This group of 18 leading North American research universities and systems are working to help local communities achieve their climate goals and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon future.

Napolitano is the recipient of ten honorary degrees as well as the Jefferson Medal from the University of Virginia, that University's highest honor. In 2015, Napolitano was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She serves on the Council of the American Law Institute, on the board at RAND, and is president of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation. In March of 2019, Napolitano published [*How Safe Are We: Homeland Security Since 9/11*](#).

Professional Service:

- Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), Board Member (2018 – June, 2026)
- Fortinet, Inc., Board Member (2024 - present)
- International Rescue Committee (IRC), Board Member (2020 - present)
- Vir Biotechnologies, Board Member (2020 - present)
- RAND, Board Member (2021 - present)

Affiliations:

- American Academy of Arts and Sciences
- The American Law Institute
- American Philosophical Society
- International Rescue Committee (IRC)
- President of the Harry S. Truman Scholarship Foundation (2022 - present)