



A Global Fellow at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Joseph Cassidy concentrates on the international refugee system – from humanitarian operations to national policies to international law – and assesses its adequacy and efficacy in the face of today’s refugee mega-crises. A particular focus has been to propose non-partisan, technocratic reforms amidst the politicized debate around the U.S. refugee resettlement system.

During a 25-year foreign service career, Cassidy served at American embassies in Iraq, Namibia, Kenya, and Guyana, and at the U.S. Mission to the United Nations in Geneva. He also served in Mostar, Bosnia, while seconded to the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). Domestic assignments included a tour as the Multilateral Director at the National Security Council. At the State Department, Cassidy served as Director of the Office of Policy, Regional, and Functional Organizations in the International Organizations Bureau; as Director of the Office of Multilateral and Global Affairs in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; and as Special Assistant in the Office of the Under Secretary for Political Affairs.

Areas of special expertise include multilateral negotiations, human rights, diplomacy and international law, refugee resettlement, and humanitarian response operations. He is the recipient of fifteen State Department awards, including eight individual and group Superior Honor Awards and four individual and group Meritorious Honor Awards.

Cassidy has published articles on State Department reform, the NSC system, the Middle East, bureaucratic loyalty, the Dissent Channel, and refugee and humanitarian issues in *Foreign Policy*, *The National Interest*, *Just Security*, *Real Clear World*, the Italian Journal of Geo-Politics *Limes*, and The Wilson Center's *New Security Beat* blog.

While affiliated with the University of Oklahoma, Cassidy will continue to write and speak about U.S. foreign policy and humanitarian institutions. He will also further explore 1) how to tap the economic potential of refugees and other forcibly displaced persons; 2) business opportunities connected to humanitarian response operations and refugee resettlement/employment; and 3) the business case for caring about humanitarian crises.

Cassidy holds a Master’s Degree in Public Policy from Princeton’s Woodrow Wilson School of International Affairs and a Bachelor’s Degree in History from Wesleyan University. He is author of the book “Place Names of Namibia: A Historical Dictionary,” published by Macmillan in 2009. He is married to human rights lawyer Elizabeth Kandravy Cassidy.