

Harold Hongju Koh on Lister's influence in the human rights bureaucracy

I think the thing is that in the human rights bureaucracy, there was no human rights bureaucracy before the 70's. Once the human rights bureaucracy got put into place, somebody who is extremely motivated by the ideas can push a number of issues, and essentially do it without direction or micro-management by political people. And that's what George did, through a combination of—He was an extremely wily person. You don't maintain influence in a bureaucracy through many administrations in over twenty-five to thirty years without—He never held a political office as far as I can tell, but scores of legislative staff became very committed to him. Many key legislative leaders count on him to tell them the truth.