

## **Bio for Esther Olavarria**

Esther Olavarria is on detail from the Department of Homeland Security to the Domestic Policy Council to work on immigration reform. She previously served as Counsel and Deputy Assistant Secretary for Policy at DHS. From 1998 to 2007, she was Senator Edward Kennedy's immigration counsel on the Senate Judiciary Committee. She has also served as a senior fellow at the Center for American Progress and a senior advisor for the UNHCR, the UN Refugee Agency. Esther began her career as an immigration attorney in Miami, Florida, working at several not for profit organizations. Esther was born in Havana, Cuba and raised in Florida. She graduated from the University of Florida with Bachelor of Arts in Political Science in 1983 and Juris Doctor in 1986.