**Joel R. Gonzalez**

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BACKGROUND, EDUCATION AND PRACTICE

Joel R. Gonzalez is a partner in the San Antonio-based law firm of Cote & Gonzalez, PLLC where he specializes in immigration law and criminal defense.

Joel earned his B.A. in Political Science from St. Mary’s University in San Antonio, Texas and a J.D. from the University of Notre Dame Law School in South Bend, Indiana. Following law school, Joel was commissioned as an officer in the United States Air Force and was on active duty from 1993 to 1998. He served as a defense counsel at Royal Air Force Lakenheath in the United Kingdom and at Randolph Air Force Base in San Antonio, Texas. He is currently a Lieutenant Colonel in the Air Force Reserve.

Between 1998 and 2007, Joel served as an Assistant United States Attorney in the Southern District of Texas where he prosecuted crimes involving drug trafficking, money laundering, immigration violations, firearms offenses, and various other federal offenses. In 2007, Joel assumed a position as an Assistant Chief Counsel with the Department of Homeland Security in San Antonio, Texas. During his five-year tenure with DHS, Joel represented the government in immigration litigation and served as counsel to Immigration and Customs Enforcement officers.