Name: John Ashcroft

Born: May 9, 1942

Profession: Attorney
Ashcroft, John

GW Bush Administration Position:

- U.S. Attorney General, 2001-2005

War crime charge(s):

- Complicity in the commission of a war crime – torture, ill-treatment of detainees. Approved 2002 and 2003 memos allowing use of "harsh interrogation techniques."

Primary Association:

- Chairman, The Ashcroft Group, LLC, lobbying/consulting firm in Washington, D.C
- professorship in the Schools of Law and Government at Regent University, “the nation’s academic center for Christian thought and action.”

Secondary Association:

- Distinguished professor, Robertson School of Government, Regent University
  1000 Regent University Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23464

More Information:

- Ashcroft: Some forms of waterboarding may be legal
- Ashcroft willing to be waterboarded
- 6-22-09 Bush officials: Where are they now?
- 9-4-09 Ninth Circuit Court Rules on John Ashcroft
- 9-29-09 Profile: Jay S. Bybee
- 5-5-11 John Ashcroft to Advise Blackwater on Ethics
Note:

- "Why are we talking about this in the White House? History will not judge this kindly." - Source

From Officials of Torture, website of Sandra Koponen.
Ashcroft, John

Let the Mighty Eagle Soar, 16x20 Oil on canvas, Sandra Koponen © 2015

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE


Ashcroft presided over the Department of Justice when it authorized torture for the first time, specifically approving of the Yoo/Bybee torture memos of August 2002 and the Yoo torture memo of March 2003. The August 2002 memos authorized the CIA's torture program, and the March 2003 memo authorized the military's torture program. In May 2002, the CIA consulted Ashcroft and others about its plan to apply specific abusive methods, including waterboarding, to Abu Zubaydah. Ashcroft concluded that waterboarding was lawful as early as July 2002, before the torture memos were finalized. Later, in July 2003, Ashcroft, Rice, Cheney, and others reaffirmed the CIA's use of abusive techniques in response to a request by CIA Director Tenet. In July 2004, Ashcroft told the CIA that virtually all of the methods authorized by the second Yoo/Bybee memo were legal if used outside the United States. Ashcroft also anticipated and sought to prevent accountability for torture. In a February 2002 memo, he advised President Bush that a presidential determination finding the Geneva Conventions did not apply to detainees "would provide the highest assurance" against prosecution of U.S. officials for violations of the Geneva Conventions' safeguards.

https://www.aclu.org/infographic/infographic-torture-architects