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David H. Schanzer is an Associate Professor of the Practice at the Duke Sanford School of Public Policy and Director of the Triangle Center on Terrorism and Homeland Security. He is also an Adjunct Professor of Public Policy and Peace, War and Defense at the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill. In these capacities, he teaches courses and conducts research on counter-terrorism strategy, counterterrorism law, and homeland security.

Prior to his academic appointments, Schanzer was the Democratic Staff Director for the House of Representatives Committee on Homeland Security from 2003-2005. He previously served as the legislative director for Senator Jean Carnahan (2001-2002), counsel to Senator Joseph R. Biden, Jr. (1996- 1998), and counsel to Senator William S. Cohen (1994-1996). His positions in the executive branch include Special Counsel, Office of General Counsel, Department of Defense (1998-2001) and Trial Attorney, United States Department of Justice (1992- 94). Schanzer was a clerk for United States District Judge Norma L. Shapiro and in the Office of the Solicitor General of the United States.

Schanzer is a graduate of Harvard College where he received a B.A. cum laude in Government in 1985 and Harvard Law School, where he was as an editor of the Harvard Law Review from 1988-1989.

Schanzer is the lead author of two National Institute of Justice funded studies “The Challenge and Promise of Using Community Policing Strategies to Prevent Violent Extremism” (2015) and “Anti-Terror Lessons of Muslim Americans” (2010). He has appeared on international, national and local media analyzing counterterrorism and homeland security issues and has authored over 50 op-ed columns. Schanzer has taught two massive, open, on-line courses (MOOCs) with Coursera that have been taken by thousands of students around the globe. He appears in a weekly podcast – “On Security” that is available on I-Tunes U and tweets under the username @schanzerdavid.