



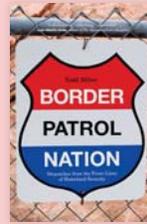
Dispatches from the Front Lines

by **Teresa A. Statler** 

In *Border Patrol Nation: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Homeland Security*, Todd Miller tells us that the U.S. Border Patrol is the most visible of the Department of Homeland Security's agencies and that it "is now touching a lot more people's lives than ever before." Along with increasing its ranks from 8,500 in 2001 to more than 21,000 today, the Border Patrol does more than just patrol the U.S. land borders. Miller recounts the Border Patrol's security and surveillance missions, in effect "creating an intensely controlled border zone buzzing with armed authorities openly patrolling strip malls, flea markets, residential areas, train stations and bus depots—to the degree that many in the borderlands, from federal magistrates to grassroots activists, have compared what they experience to a military occupation."

And who knew that the Border Patrol offers an "Explorer Program" for teenagers? This reader was dismayed to learn of the training and indoctrination of 14 to 18-year-olds wearing black boots, T-shirts, and dark green Border Patrol pants. Although the Explorers "learn about borders, citizenship, [Customs and Border

 BOOK



Border Patrol Nation: Dispatches from the Front Lines of Homeland Security

2014, 358 pages

Protection], and even a little bit of immigration law," Miller writes that they learn about paramilitary and law enforcement tactics, including weapons training and "takedown moves." Even more distressing was the chapter titled "Unfinished Business in Indian Country," where the sovereign and sacred lands of the Tohono O'odham tribal members in Arizona have been taken over by the Border Patrol.

Miller also paints the sad picture of his hometown of Niagara Falls, where the former honeymoon capital—now down on its economic luck—has become an important staging ground in *Border Patrol Nation*. Locals wonder why the Border Patrol, with its helicopters, boats, planes, bikes, and mopeds, is expanding while almost everything else in Niagara Falls is falling apart.

Concerned immigration advocates and U.S. citizens in general should read *Border Patrol Nation* and

BACKTRACK



Flagrant Abuse Goes Unchecked

WHAT'S HAPPENING

AILA congratulates attorneys whose reputations and expertise have been honored by *The International Who's Who of Corporate Immigration Lawyers* this year.

Carolinas Chapter member **BRADLEY B. BANIAS** has become an adjunct professor at his alma mater, the Charleston School of Law, where he teaches immigration and citizenship law this semester.

Washington State Chapter member **MARIA MARTY** and Washington, D.C. Chapter member **MADLINE ELLIS** opened their firm, Marty & Ellis LLP, with offices in the D.C. and Seattle metropolitan areas.

recommend it to friends and family. Miller deserves accolades for his well-researched work about the growing inhumanity and transformation of our country into one large militarized border zone.

TERESA A. STATLER practices immigration law in Portland, OR, emphasizing on family, asylum, and removal. The author's views do not necessarily represent the views of AILA nor do they constitute legal advice or representation.