

KEYNOTE SPEAKER · REGULATORY VCISO

Regulatory vCISO Keynote Speaker

For Boards, Executive Teams, and High-Risk Organizations

30

YEARS

200+

COMPLIANCE
ASSESSMENTS

85

KEYNOTES

16

PUBLISHED BOOKS

WHY CARL FOR THIS TOPIC

The most expensive lesson in regulatory compliance is the one organizations learn at audit. Tooling stacks have grown and automation has matured, but GRC dashboards that look reassuring on a Tuesday collapse the first time an OCR investigator, a CMMC assessor, or a state AG asks what's actually behind the green checkmarks. The problem is rarely the tools — it's the absence of experienced regulatory judgment sitting above them.

Carl B. Johnson has 30 years inside the rules that govern high-risk organizations. As CISO at **Cleared Systems**, he runs active vCISO engagements every week for healthcare systems, defense suppliers, federal contractors, and technology companies operating under HIPAA, CMMC, ITAR, CUI, and the rapidly evolving rules around AI and privacy.

For board meetings, executive offsites, audit committee briefings, and CISO roundtables, Carl delivers content that helps senior leadership ask sharper questions and make better decisions about regulatory oversight — not just at the technical level, but at the governance level where the consequential calls actually get made.

AVAILABLE SESSIONS

SIGNATURE KEYNOTE

Regulatory vCISO Services for High-Risk Organizations

Built from active vCISO engagements across healthcare, defense, federal contracting, and technology. Covers why tools and automation keep failing under audit, what experienced regulatory leadership materially changes about program maturity, and the governance shape that distinguishes programs that hold up from programs that crack.

BEST FOR Executive summits, CISO roundtables, GRC association events, board-and-executive conferences

DURATION 45–60 minutes

EXECUTIVE BRIEFING

When Compliance Tools Aren't Enough

Focused briefing for boards, audit committees, and senior executive teams. The questions directors should be asking the CIO, CISO, and Chief Compliance Officer about regulatory program maturity, the warning signs before an audit failure, and the M&A diligence questions that surface real compliance risk.

BEST FOR Boards, audit committees, executive leadership teams, M&A diligence sessions

DURATION 20–30 minutes plus Q&A

WORKSHOP

Building a Regulatory vCISO Function

Hands-on session for executive teams and audit committee chairs evaluating how to bring regulatory leadership into their organization. Covers when a full-time CISO is the right answer versus a fractional or vCISO model, what the function should own, the reporting structure that gives it real authority, and the failure patterns to avoid.

BEST FOR Executive teams and audit committees evaluating compliance leadership structure

DURATION 3–4 hours

WHO THIS IS FOR

- Boards and audit committees
- Executive leadership offsites
- CISO roundtables and peer groups
- GRC and compliance association events
- M&A diligence and integration sessions
- Private equity portfolio operations forums
- CFO and CRO leadership events
- Industry events for highly regulated sectors

WHAT AUDIENCES WALK AWAY WITH

- ✓ A clear-eyed view of where compliance tooling stops working and where regulatory judgment has to take over
- ✓ The specific failure patterns Carl sees most often in organizations that thought they were covered
- ✓ A working framework for evaluating whether a full-time CISO, fractional CISO, or vCISO model is right for the organization
- ✓ The governance and reporting structure that gives a compliance function real authority — not just budget
- ✓ The board-level questions that surface real regulatory risk in M&A diligence before it becomes a post-close problem

COMMON QUESTIONS

Is this content too technical for a board audience?

No. The signature keynote and executive briefing are deliberately calibrated for non-technical leadership. Carl's specialty is translating regulatory complexity into clear decisions board members can actually make — what to ask, what to fund, what to escalate.

Our organization spans multiple regulatory regimes. Can the talk address that?

Yes — multi-regime organizations are where the vCISO conversation matters most. The content is built around the cross-cutting governance questions that show up regardless of which regulations apply, with sector-specific examples drawn from active engagements.

Is this a sales pitch for vCISO services?

No. The keynote and briefings are speaking engagements built around the regulatory governance questions executives face. Carl runs an active vCISO practice and will answer questions about how the model works, but the talks are not promotional.

Booking inquiries: <https://carlbjohnson.com/#contact>

Topic page: <https://carlbjohnson.com/speaking/vciso-keynote-speaker>

Carl leads compliance strategy at [Cleared Systems](#).

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