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Outside CNAS, Cordero has been a CNN analyst since 2017. In March 2022, Cordero was appointed by the Secretary of Homeland Security to the Homeland Security Advisory Council. She is also a member of the Board of Advisors of the Tech, Law & Security Program at American University Washington College of Law.

Cordero spent the first part of her career in public service, including as counsel to the assistant attorney general for national security; senior associate general counsel at the Office of the Director of National Intelligence; and attorney advisor at the U.S. Department of Justice, during which time she handled critical counterterrorism and counterintelligence investigations and appeared frequently before the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Court. At the U.S. Department of Justice and the Office of the Director of National Intelligence, she worked extensively on developing policies, procedures, and processes relating to oversight, compliance, and protection of privacy and civil liberties in the context of government national security investigations and intelligence activities. She also served as a special assistant United States attorney. After leaving government service, Cordero was the director of national security studies at Georgetown Law, where she also served as adjunct professor of law from 2010 to 2020. She was also in private practice, handling matters related to surveillance, law enforcement response, security, and privacy.

Cordero earned her JD, cum laude, from Washington College of Law, American University, and her BA, magna cum laude, from Barnard College, Columbia University.