

Presenters and Panelists in order of appearance

Chief Judge Robert N. Davis, U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Chief Judge Robert N. Davis was appointed by the President of the United States as a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims on December 4, 2004. He became Chief Judge on October 9, 2016.

Prior to his judicial appointment, Chief Judge Davis was a full tenured professor of law at Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, Florida. He joined the Stetson law faculty in August 2001 after teaching for 13 years at the University of Mississippi School of Law, where he was a tenured full professor. He has also held teaching positions at the University of South Florida, Georgetown University Law Center, the University of Memphis, and Washington and Lee University. He has taught in summer programs at the University of Hawaii; Downing College, England; and Concordia International University, Estonia; and has lectured at Makerere University School of Law in Uganda and at the University of Papua New Guinea.

Chief Judge Davis has taught constitutional law, administrative law, national and international security law, alternative dispute resolution, counter-terrorism, and international and domestic sports law. He is the founder of the *Journal of National Security Law* and has held positions of leadership with the American Bar Associations' Standing Committee on Law and National Security, the Federalist Society, and the American Association of Law Schools. He has written numerous articles on a variety of subjects, including a recent article published by the *Texas Tech Law Review* entitled: "Veterans Fighting Wars at Home and Abroad." He has been a frequent commentator on television, radio, and newspapers regarding national security, terrorism, constitutional law, and elections issues. While teaching in Mississippi, he was appointed by the Governor as a Mississippi Commissioner to the National Conference of Commissioners on Uniform State Laws.

Chief Judge Davis has extensive experience as an arbitrator and mediator with the American Arbitration Association. He was a mediator with the United States Postal Service and was an arbitration panel member with the United States Olympic Committee.

Chief Judge Davis presides over the veterans court as a decorated Navy veteran. During his Navy career as an intelligence officer, Commander Davis took a variety of active duty assignments around the world, including assignments to Headquarters European Command 1991, Stuttgart, Germany; Mediterranean Deployment Aboard the USS America 1993; Joint Analysis Center 1994, Molesworth, United Kingdom, DOD Foreign Officer Exchange Program 2000, Papua, New Guinea; Joint Fleet Exercise USS Coronado 2001, San Diego, CA; National Security Agency in 1997, 1998 and 2000; a presidential recall in 1999 to Bosnia; recall to active duty after the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001, to the Joint Intelligence Directorate at MacDill Air Force Base, Tampa, Florida; and Joint Staff Response Cell in support of OEF and OIF, Pentagon, 2005-2007.

Chief Judge Davis graduated from the University of Hartford, West Hartford, Connecticut, in 1975 and the Georgetown University Law Center, Washington, D.C., in 1978. He practiced as an appellate attorney for 5 years with the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, Washington, D.C. Chief Judge Davis subsequently spent 4 years with the United States Department of Education, Washington, D.C., in the business and administrative law division. Chief Judge Davis also briefly served as a Special Assistant United States Attorney in the District of Columbia as part of a Federal agency exchange program.

Chief Judge Davis is an avid sportsman and naturalist enjoying a variety of sports and hobbies including traditional Chinese Kung Fu and Tai Chi (Pai Lum Tao), birdwatching, hiking, biking, swimming, camping, tennis, and golf. He enjoys traveling and speaks elementary Spanish and German.

Amy Odom, President, CAVC Bar Association

Amy graduated from the University of Florida with her B.A., *cum laude*, in 2003 and her J.D., *cum laude*, from the University of Florida Levin College of Law in 2006. During law school she participated in the moot court program, was an intern at the Center for Government Responsibility, and was an extern for the Honorable Stephan Mickle, Northern District of Florida. Prior to joining CCK, Amy served as a staff attorney and then as the Director of Litigation at the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP). From 2006 to 2008, Amy was an Attorney-Advisor at the U.S. Department of Labor, Office of Administrative Law Judges.

Extremely active in the field of Veterans Law, Amy is the current President of the CAVC Bar Association and also serves on its Judicial Advisory Committee. She is a member of the National Organization of Veterans' Advocates (NOVA). Amy was a panelist at the USCAVC Twelfth Judicial Conference in 2013 and a panelist at the NOVA Spring 2017 Conference. She is a credited author of the Veterans Benefits Manual 2009-2013 editions, and a credited Editor of the 2014-2018/2019 editions. Amy has been a recurring speaker at the University of Missouri Veterans Clinic Symposium (2015, 2016, 2017).

Kenneth Walsh, Department of Veterans Affairs Office of General Counsel

Kenneth A. Walsh, Deputy Chief Counsel, Veterans Court Litigation Group, Office of General Counsel, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Ken received his bachelor's degree from the University of Richmond and his juris doctorate from William and Mary. He first worked for the Office of General Counsel as a summer law clerk after completing his first year of law school. In his current capacity, Ken supervises a litigation team that practices exclusively before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Ken is an alumnus of Leadership VA, which is a corporate leadership development program that cultivates high-performing leaders for a 21st century VA, and he has served as a guest lecturer for the Board of Veterans' Appeals at its Grand Rounds training and at the Veterans Benefits Administration's Adjudication Academy. Ken served as chairman of the Court's Committee on Admission and Practice for six years.

Hillary Wandler, Professor & Director of Veterans Advocacy Clinic, ABIII School of Law at the University of Montana

Professor Wandler teaches courses in legal analysis and writing and veterans disability law, and directs the School of Law's Veterans Advocacy Clinic. Professor Wandler is admitted to practice in Montana state and federal courts and the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and she is accredited to practice before the Department of Veterans Affairs. Professor Wandler joined the School of Law faculty in 2008 after clerking for Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge James R. Browning, clerking for U.S. District Court Judge Donald W. Molloy, and practicing law with Garlington, Lohn & Robinson in Missoula, Montana. She received her B.A. *cum laude* from Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, and her J.D. *high honors* from the University of Montana School of Law. She continues to represent veterans in disability claims and appeals, collaborating with students in the Veterans Advocacy Clinic, Montana Legal Services Association, the Missoula Vet Center, and many other service providers in Montana and nationally. She also co-chairs the National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium's Advocacy Committee with Professor Angela Drake, University of Missouri.

Maura J. Clancy, Chisholm, Chisholm & Kilpatrick

Maura earned her J.D. from Roger Williams University School of Law in 2014, graduating *magna cum laude*. Prior to entering law school, she graduated *magna cum laude* from Stonehill College, where she focused her studies in Political Science and Philosophy. She also gained valuable experience while working as a case manager for a social service agency.

During law school, Maura completed an internship for U.S. District Court Judge John J. McConnell, Jr. and served as a research assistant for Rhode Island Superior Court Judge Stephen J. Fortunato, Jr. (ret.). She was a member of the *Roger Williams University Law Review*, where she worked as an Articles Editor and published a case survey. She also served as an appellate law clerk for the office of the Rhode Island Public Defender.

Prior to joining Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick, Maura gained experience as an Associate Attorney in a civil litigation firm, focusing on personal injury and family law, and as a judicial law clerk in the Rhode Island Superior Court. She is a member of the Rhode Island Bar Association.

During her free time, Maura enjoys cooking, spending time with her family and friends, and cheering on the Boston Bruins.

Brenda Desmond, Montana State District Court Standing Master, Missoula Veterans Treatment Court

Brenda C. Desmond has been a District Court Standing Master for twenty years. She received her law degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo Law School and her undergraduate degree in philosophy from Leuven University in Belgium.

Her experience prior to becoming a standing master includes: teaching at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law for nine years in the areas of Indian Law, legislation, appellate practice and legal writing; working for the Montana state legislature drafting bills, working on Montana code revision and serving as staff attorney for the House Judiciary Committee and several interim committees. She has also served as a staff attorney for Alaska Legal Services and Montana Legal Services and as a legal advisor to the Crow Tribal Court. She has been an appellate justice for the Confederated Salish and Kootenai Tribal Court of Appeals and for the Fort Peck Tribal Court of Appeals.

As a standing master, under the authority of Mont. Code Ann. §§3-5-122 et. seq., Desmond conducts preliminary matters in adult criminal cases, including arraignments, setting bond and conditions of release. She also conducts preliminary matters in juvenile delinquency proceedings, including detention and release hearings. In civil matters, on referral from District Court Judges or by stipulation of the parties, she conducts hearings, including final hearings, in dissolution of marriage and parenting cases, mental health commitment proceedings, guardianship proceedings and discovery disputes. She acts as a mediator in the initial stage of child protection cases and serves as pro bono settlement master or mediator in approximately ten cases per year. She presides over the weekly sessions of the Missoula Co-Occurring Treatment Court, and its Veterans Treatment Track. Participants in both court programs have been charged with a crime and have mental health and substance abuse challenges that factored into the commission of the charged crime. The Missoula court is patterned after similar courts around the country that promote community safety by providing long-term community-based treatment services along with monitoring and supervision.

Judge Colleen Herrington, Bozeman V.E.T.S. Court

Judge J. Colleen Herrington has been one of the Bozeman Municipal Court Judges since January 2012. Prior to the bench, Judge Herrington commissioned into the Montana Army National Guard. She is currently a Major and has been serving since 2010. In 2017, Judge

Herrington applied for and received a BJA Grant to start a Veterans Treatment Court in Bozeman Municipal Court. The Bozeman V.E.T.S. Court accepted the first participants over one year ago and serves Veterans involved in the Criminal Justice System.

Renee Boundy, Bozeman V.E.T.S. Court Coordinator

Renee Boundy spent 30 years working in the fields of mental health and substance abuse. She has approached these both from the criminal justice side as a youth probation officer and from the treatment side as a program director in charge of two group homes. Her current role as a court coordinator for the Bozeman V.E.T.S. court allows her to use skills from both roles in providing service to justice involved veterans.

Officer Jessie Holton, Bozeman V.E.T.S. Court

Jessie Holton is a 13 year veteran law enforcement officer, having served 12 years in Brevard County, Florida and now works for the Bozeman Police Department in Montana. He also served in the US Marine Corp where he became a decorated combat Veteran of both Iraq and Afghanistan. Holton holds a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Criminal Justice Administration, a Graduate Certificate in Police Leadership, and a Doctorate of Education in Organization Sociology, all from the University of Central Florida. Through his own personal experiences with being a combat Veteran and significant law enforcement career, he has concentrated his research to increasing awareness and quality of life for all those in first responder occupations. In addition to his duties as a patrol officer and police department representative to the Bozeman V.E.T.S. Court, he leads the non-profit T-6 Advanced Training and Development Group.

Commander John B. Wells, USN (Ret.), Executive Director, Military-Veterans Advocacy

Commander John B. Wells, USN (Ret) served in the United States Navy from February 1972 through July of 1994. During that period, he served in a number of assignments ashore and afloat.

Commander Wells graduated from Duquesne University School of Law in 1994 and is now a practicing attorney in Slidell and in Washington DC. He is also the Executive Director of Military-Veterans Advocacy, a non-profit organization who legislates, litigates and educates on behalf of veterans and current members of the armed forces. He travels to Washington DC several times a year to promote veterans legislation before Congress. Commander Wells also serves as a member of the Parish President's Veterans Military Affairs Advisory Council and is an elected member of the Republican Party Executive Committee for St. Tammany Parish. He is a life member of MOAA, USNI, VFW, FRA and AUSN. He and his wife Janice have two daughters, five grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Carol Scott, Bergmann & Moore

Carol Scott, Esq., has been advocating for veterans her entire career. After private practice, she joined the Ford Clemency Program as civilian counsel from 1974-1975. She was Commissioner of the U.S. Court of Military Appeals from 1975-1982, a supervising staff attorney in the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeal for the 11th Circuit from 1982-1984, and an advocate with the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program in Washington, D.C., from 1995 to 2017. She joined Bergmann & Moore last year to focus on advocating for Native American veterans, and she has been traveling to tribes across the nation to learn about tribal veterans services. Ms. Scott is past Chair of the Veterans & Military Law Section of the Federal Bar Association, and she is a member of the National Organization of Veterans Advocates (NOVA). She is also a member of the D.C. Bar. She regularly advocates for legislative and policy changes for veterans of all eras, branches of service, and backgrounds.

Peter Vicaire, VA Office of Tribal Government Relations

Peter Scott Vicaire is the Tribal Government Relations Specialist for the Central Region covering the following states: Montana, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Nebraska, Minnesota, Iowa, Wisconsin, and Michigan. He also covers the following states in the North Eastern Region: New York, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Maine, and Massachusetts.

Peter Scott Vicaire is a member of the Listuguj Mi'gmaq First Nation in Quebec, Canada, where he was raised. He is also a former U.S. Marine, honorably discharged as a sergeant after serving with the 8th & I Presidential Honor Guard in Washington D.C. and as an infantry squad leader with 3rd Battalion, 4th Marines. He has both American (Michigan State University) and Canadian (University of Ottawa) law degrees, with a specialization in indigenous law, and is licensed to practice in New York and Minnesota. He also has a master's degree in military studies from the American Military University. He is married and has two children.

Monte Mills, Professor & Director of Margery Hunter Brown Indian Law Clinic, ABIII School of Law at the University of Montana

Monte Mills is an Associate Professor and Co-Director of the Margery Hunter Brown Indian Law Clinic at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana. He teaches a variety of Indian law courses and works with clinical students on a range of legal matters in the Indian Law Clinic. Prior to joining the faculty at the Alexander Blewett III School of Law at the University of Montana, Monte was the Director of the Legal Department for the Southern Ute Indian Tribe in Colorado, an in-house counsel department that he helped organize and implement in 2005 following completion of a unique two-year in-house attorney training program. As Director of the Tribe's Legal Department, Monte represented and counseled the Tribe on a broad array of issues, including litigation in tribal, state and federal courts, legislative matters before the

Colorado General Assembly and the United States Congress, and internal tribal matters such as contracting, code-drafting, and gaming issues.

Robert Cuthbert, formerly of Military Discharge Upgrade Clinic, Veteran Advocacy Project of the Urban Justice Center

Rob Cuthbert is a national award-winning freelance writer who formerly served as the pro bono coordinator for the discharge upgrade clinic of the Urban Justice Center-Veteran Advocacy Project in New York City. His work has been published by *The New York Times*, *USA Today*, *The New York Daily News*, *The Baltimore Sun*, and *The Richmond Times-Dispatch*. Rob is also a United States Army veteran of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Prior to his military service, Rob was an investigative intern at the Criminal and Juvenile Justice Clinic at the Georgetown University Law Center and a full-time investigator at the Neighborhood Defender Service of Harlem (New York City). After completing his active duty military obligation, Rob interned at the Yale Law School Veterans Legal Services Clinic, where he co-authored *Casting Troops Aside: The United States Military's Illegal Personality Discharge Problem* for Vietnam Veterans of America. Rob holds a bachelor's degree with honors from the University of Chicago, and from 2011-2012 was a (non-degree) special student in the Yale University Department of History. He is also a fiduciary board member of the Yale Veterans Association.

Alan Goldsmith, Chair Veterans and Military Law Section Federal Bar Association, Former Section Head, BCNR

Mr. Goldsmith served as a section head at the Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR) for 25 years. His section reviewed requests for discharge upgrades, reinstatement in the service, changes in reenlistment codes, removal of nonjudicial punishments and related matters. Mr. Goldsmith also served on active duty as an Air Force judge advocate, specializing in administrative separation actions.

Mr. Goldsmith received his BA from Kenyon College and his JD from the Catholic University School of Law. He has been awarded the Air Force Commendation Medal and the Navy Superior Civilian Service Award. Mr. Goldsmith serves on the Board of Directors of the Judge Advocates Association and chairs the Veterans and Military Law Section of the Federal Bar Association (FBA).

Dana Montalto, Harvard Veterans Law and Disability Benefits Clinic

Dana Montalto is an Attorney and Clinical Instructor in the Veterans Legal Clinic at the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School. She represents veterans with less-than-honorable discharges in seeking military discharge upgrades and federal and state veteran benefits. Dana also founded and directs the Veterans Justice Pro Bono Partnership, which

connects veterans who wrongfully received less-than-honorable discharges with *pro bono* attorneys seeking to give back to those who served. She authored *Underserved: How VA Wrongfully Excludes Veterans with Bad Paper* on behalf of Swords to Plowshares and the National Veterans Legal Services Program and co-authored *With Malice Toward None: Revisiting the Historical & Legal Basis for Excluding Veterans from "Veteran" Services*, 122 Penn. St. L. Rev. 69 (2017).

Dana received her bachelor's degree, *magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kappa, from Wellesley College and her law degree from Yale Law School, where she participated in the Veterans Legal Services Clinic and the International Refugee Assistance Project. She joined the Legal Services Center in 2014 as an Arthur Liman Public Interest Fellow after completing a clerkship for the Honorable F. Dennis Saylor IV of the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts.

Colonel Edward C. Segura, USAF; President, Air Force Discharge Review Board/Deputy Director, SAFPC/DRB Operations

Colonel Edward C. Segura is the Reserve Advisor, Air Force Review Boards Agency, Joint Base Andrews, Maryland. He advises all agency boards on reserve matters and oversees Discharge Review Board operations on behalf of the Secretary of the Air Force. The board examines the equity and propriety of former members' administrative discharges, and considers applications to the board for upgrades to their service characterizations.

Colonel Segura graduated from Louisiana State University in 1993 and was commissioned in March 1994 through Officer Training School. He has commanded a services flight, aircraft maintenance squadron and mission support group. Additionally, he commanded the Air Force's largest expeditionary aircraft maintenance squadron while deployed.

Prior to his current position, Colonel Segura was the Commander, 403rd Mission Support Group, Keesler Air Force Base, Mississippi, where he was responsible for the security, communications, logistics and personnel management for 1,500 Reserve and civilian personnel while providing peacetime and wartime mission-ready airmen for Air Force Reserve Command, Air Mobility Command and combatant commanders.

Robert Powers, President, Naval Discharge Review Board

Mr. Powers currently serves as the President for the Naval Discharge Review Board (NDRB). Before his current employment with the NDRB, Robert Powers served as the President of the Physical Evaluation Board; a Judicial Intern for the Honorable C. Philip Nichols, Jr.; a Professor/Company Officer at the United States Naval Academy; and as a Legislative Assistant for the Honorable Roscoe Bartlett (6th MD). While in the U.S. Marine Corps, Robert Powers served as a Force Reconnaissance Commander; Maritime Special Purpose Force Commander for 22nd MEU; and as a Light Armored Reconnaissance Officer. His military education includes the Naval War College, and USMC Command & Staff. He retired from the Marine Corps as a Major in 2009. Mr. Powers is a graduate of Washington

College of Law American University cum laude, Naval Postgraduate School, and the Citadel, summa cum laude. He is a member in good standing with the Maryland and Florida State Bar.

Rose Goldberg, Supervising Staff Attorney, Swords to Plowshares

Rose Carmen Goldberg is a Supervising Staff Attorney and former Skadden Fellow at Swords to Plowshares. She directs a Medical-Legal Partnership with the Oakland Vet Center, a partnership that integrates legal services and mental health treatment for veterans. She specializes in helping former service members with other than honorable discharges restore their veteran status. In addition to her work at Swords to Plowshares, Rose is a Lecturer at Berkeley Law School, where she teaches legal research and writing.

Previously, Rose clerked for the Honorable Theodore A. McKee, Chief Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. Her work background includes several years of health policy at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, where she was nominated to serve on the Health Reform Evaluation Committee. She also worked for the U.S. Senate Judiciary Committee and at the White House on Native American affairs.

Rose has a J.D. from Yale Law School, where she advocated for reform of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' evidentiary standards for military sexual trauma claims as a member of the Veterans Legal Services Clinic. Prior to law school, Rose graduated from Columbia University with a Masters in Public Policy and Administration. She received her B.A. from St. John's College's "great books" program in New Mexico.

Rose sits on the California Lawyers Association Litigation Section's Veterans and Military Affairs Committee.

Dr. Madelon Baranoski, PhD Yale University, Professor of Psychiatry

Madelon Visintainer Baranoski obtained a PhD in psychology at the University of Pennsylvania. Since 1999 she has been at the Yale School of Medicine, Law and Psychiatry Division. She is Professor of Psychiatry and is Director of Psychological Services in the Division. She established and now directs the New Haven Jail Diversion Program and developed Community Forensic Services at a community mental health center. As faculty, she teaches medical students, residents and fellows in both psychiatry specialties and psychology. She also teaches in the Yale Law School and participates in Yale Law School clinics, including the veterans and the immigration clinics, consulting to law students and conducting evaluations. She has served on the Yale University Institutional Review Board for 20 years and is Chair of four of the review panels. Dr. Baranoski is a veteran and served in Viet Nam as an army nurse. Her current research, publications, and presentations are on vicarious trauma, risk assessment and management strategies for persons with psychiatric disorders, and assessment and augmentation of decision-making in persons with cognitive limitations.

Dr. Howard Zonana, MD Yale University, Professor of Psychiatry and Adjunct Professor of Law

Dr. Howard Zonana is a Professor of Psychiatry at Yale University, School of Medicine, and an Adjunct Professor of Law at Yale Law School, where he co-teaches and consults in Prison and Immigration Clinics and Trial Practice class.

Dr. Zonana graduated Syracuse University in 1958, and Johns Hopkins Medical School in 1962. He interned with the Albert Einstein School of Medicine before performing a psychiatry residency at Harvard, Massachusetts Mental Health Center from 1963 to 1966. He became Training Director for the Forensic Psychiatry Residency Program at Yale in 1979.

Dr. Zonana currently serves and has served in several prominent Board positions, including Vice Chair and Chair of American Board of Psychiatry & Neurology, Forensic Psychiatry Examination Committee 1993-2008; American Academy of Psychiatry and the Law (AAPL), Past President and Medical Director from 1995-2013; American Psychiatric Association (APA), Past Chair Council of Psychiatry and Law and Committee on Judicial Action and current Member of Committee on Judicial Action; Chair of the APA Task Force on Dangerous Sex Offenders in 1999; and Chair of the Bioethics Committee at Yale New Haven Hospital 1985-1999 and present member.

Dr. Zonana has also co-authored AAPL Task Force Practice Guidelines for Criminal Responsibility Evaluations 2002, Forensic Evaluations of Competency to Stand Trial 2007, and Forensic Evaluation of Psychiatric Disability 2008. He has written about sexual predator statutes, competency to be executed in death penalty cases, Tarasoff Obligations, civil commitment, insanity acquittees, psychiatrist's involvement in military interrogations, the Americans with Disabilities Act, and forensic psychiatry ethics.

In 2012, Dr. Zonana was presented with the Isaac Ray Award at the Annual Meeting for the American Psychiatry Association in Philadelphia, PA, during the Convocation of Fellows Meeting for demonstrating leadership and outstanding achievements in the field of forensic psychiatry.

Patty Fain, Pro Bono Coordinator, Montana Supreme Court Pro Bono Program

Patty Fain has served as the Statewide Pro Bono Coordinator with the Montana Supreme Court since the inception of the statewide 12 years ago and has been involved in access to justice and pro bono efforts in Montana for more than 25 years. As the statewide coordinator, Fain works with local and statewide pro bono and non-profit programs; Montana courts and judges; the State Bar of Montana, and the Law School in developing and sustaining pro bono programs and initiatives and in recruiting and supporting volunteer attorneys.

Jennifer Fulmer, Managing Pro Bono Attorney, Legal Services of Northern Virginia

Jennifer Fulmer is the Pro Bono Managing Attorney at Legal Services of Northern Virginia and handles cases in each of LSNV's pro bono programs. Prior to working for LSNV, she clerked for the Honorable David F. Pugh in Newport News Circuit Court. She has served on the board of the VSB's Young Lawyers Conference and is the Vice-Chair of the VSB's Access to Justice Special Committee. She has been recognized in Virginia Business Legal Elite for her Pro Bono work and received the Virginia State Bar's Distinguished Service award four years in a row for with the VSB's Young Lawyers Conference. She graduated from George Mason School of Law and received her undergraduate degree from the College of William and Mary.

Steve Lessard, President-elect New York County Lawyers Association/Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe

Stephen C. Lessard is a senior associate in the Tax Group at Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe LLP where his practice includes the taxation of financial products, debt and equity offerings, cross-border transactions, and mergers and acquisitions. He is active with the firm's Diversity and Recruiting Committees, and serves in the leadership of the firm's Veterans Forum and LGBT Affinity Group. He has engaged in a number of pro bono projects, including providing tax advice to non-profit organizations, assisting veterans to upgrade their military discharge, providing life planning advice to LGBT individuals, and volunteering with the Service members' Legal Defense Network advising military personnel on the "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy.

During a 20-year career with the U.S. Navy, Mr. Lessard served in a number of positions on ships and ashore as a Surface Warfare Officer. He was honored with various personal and unit awards, including the Meritorious Service Medal, Navy Commendation Medal, and Navy Achievement Medal.

Mr. Lessard helped found the New York County Lawyers' Association (NYCLA) Veterans Discharge Upgrade Program. The program, a joint effort by NYCLA, the Veteran Advocacy Project of the Urban Justice Center, and Fordham Law School's Feerick Center for Social Justice, assists veterans seeking to upgrade the characterization of their military discharge that is less than honorable due to poor performance or misconduct brought on by undiagnosed post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, or military sexual trauma, in order to claim entitlement to veterans' benefits and reclaim their lives after returning home from combat.

Mr. Lessard is a member of the National LGBT Bar Association's Military Working Group, where he handled a project representing transgender veterans seeking to amend their military documents to reflect name changes. This project resulted in the military services revising their policies to permit transgender veterans to change the name on their discharge certificates to match their gender identity.

Mr. Lessard also helped establish the NYCLA U.S. Tax Court Calendar Call Pro Bono Program, the first of its kind in New York State. He currently serves as the program's administrator where he oversees a group of volunteer tax attorneys who help unrepresented taxpayers navigate the unfamiliar process of U.S. Tax Court calendar calls, settlement negotiations, and trial preparation.

The program has a well-deserved positive reputation among the Tax Court judges and Internal Revenue Service counsel, who have noted its positive impact on court administration. The program has become a model for similar initiatives across the nation.

Mr. Lessard graduated from Texas A&M University and received a Master of Arts degree from the University of Virginia. Mr. Lessard earned his law degree from Georgetown University Law Center. He currently serves as President-Elect of the New York County Lawyers Association and is a member of the American Bar Association House of Delegates, the New York State Bar Association (NYSBA) House of Delegates, and the NYSBA Committee on Veterans. He was named a Minority Corporate Counsel Association 2015 Rising Star and to the New York Metro Super Lawyers Rising Stars list for 2014 through 2018. He also received a NYSBA 2016 President's Pro Bono Service Award. Mr. Lessard is admitted to the Bar in New York, the United States Tax Court, and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Justine Pelham, Veterans Law Pro Bono Project, Legal Services of Northern Virginia

Justine M. Pelham is a Staff Attorney at Legal Services of Northern Virginia's Veterans Law Project where she is establishing a pro bono program to assist veterans in their discharge upgrade applications and VA character of discharge appeals. She is member of the New York State Bar and is accredited by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Prior to joining LSNV, she completed an Equal Justice Works Fellowship, sponsored by 21st Century Fox, (2014) with the Urban Justice Center's Veteran Advocacy Project, where she advocated for veterans who were improperly denied public benefits by running a weekly full-service legal help-desk at the VA's Brooklyn Healthcare Center and leading a network of law students that provided representation at administrative hearings. She is a graduate of New York University (B.A., 2010) and Brooklyn Law School (J.D., 2014).

Yelena Duterte, Director Syracuse University College of Law's Wohl Family Veterans Legal Clinic

Yelena Duterte is an Associate Teaching Professor and the Director of Syracuse University College of Law's Wohl Family Veterans Legal Clinic. As Director of the clinic, Yelena supervises students in their representation of veterans and their families in pursuit of discharge upgrades, VA healthcare, and VA benefits, including compensation, GI Bill benefits, and pension benefits. In addition to teaching in the clinic, she teaches a veterans law course focused on the administrative procedures within the Department of Veterans

Affairs. She also coaches an appellate team that competes in the National Veterans Law Moot Court Competition.

Yelena joined Syracuse in January 2015 from The John Marshall Law School, where she was the Assistant Director of the nationally recognized Veterans Legal Support Center & Clinic (VLSC). In addition to practicing veterans law, she worked on cases that involved the Service members Civil Relief Act and family law. During her tenure at the VLSC, she worked under a Department of Justice grant in federal and state court. Under that grant, she helped veterans facing criminal charges in Cook County's felony Veterans Treatment Court program and Northern District of Illinois' Federal Enclave Misdemeanor court call.

Yelena is a Board member and Treasurer of the National Law School Veterans Legal Clinic Consortium, a non-profit organization that creates an infrastructure for collaboration among non-profit legal clinics serving veterans around the nation.

She is also a board member of the New York State Discharge Upgrade Advisory Board. Created in 2018, New York State's Discharge Upgrade Advisory Board can provide a non-binding advisory opinion to Veterans with discharge upgrade appeals, when a majority of the Board's members deem it to be meritorious.

Yelena regularly speaks on veterans law topics and provides training to other law schools on creating successful veterans clinics.