

ONLINE  
**NLSVCC  
CONFERENCE**

**June 13, 9:00 - 4:00 PM CST**  
**June 14, 9:00 - 1:00 PM CST**

The NLSVCC conference planning committee is pleased to welcome you to the NLSVCC biennial conference which will be held via Zoom. This conference handout provides information regarding presentation topics, speakers, and registration information.

While the conference is primarily focused towards attorneys, veteran service officers, and clinicians, students are eligible to register and join the conference as well.

Registration for the conference is free. If you have questions or concerns about the conference, please reach out to one of the NLSVCC Conference Planning Committee Members.

*Conference Planning Committee Members*

Alexander Scherr

Hillary Wandler

Margaret Costello

Carter Brooks Templeton

# REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Registration for the conference closed on June 12, 2024 at 12:00 PM EST. If you require registration after this date, please contact a member of the conference planning committee.

## ZOOM INFORMATION

The conference will be held via Zoom. Zoom link information will be sent to attendees the day before the conference. Information emailed to participants will include a Zoom link and passcode. This passcode is required for attendees to enter the Zoom conference.

Attendees will have the option of having their camera on and their microphone may be unmuted. Many of the presentations are either discussion based or allow time for questions from attendees. Attendees will therefore be able to unmute themselves and ask questions of the panelist and/or participate in the important discussions. **We request that attendees utilize the “raise hand” feature in Zoom if you would like to speak.**

NOTE: Please monitor your mute button. If you are not speaking, please make sure your mute button is selected so as not to disturb the conference.

If you have issues or questions regarding Zoom, please contact Alex Scherr at [scherr@uga.edu](mailto:scherr@uga.edu) or Hillary Wandler at [hillary.wandler@mso.umt.edu](mailto:hillary.wandler@mso.umt.edu).

# CONFERENCE SCHEDULE

**\*ALL TIMES ARE CENTRAL STANDARD TIME**

**\*\*PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS INCLUDED FURTHER IN CONFERENCE PACKET**

## THURSDAY, JUNE 13

9:00 AM	<b>Introductory Remarks</b>
9:15 AM	<b>Experts: Best Practices &amp; Challenges of Cross-Disciplinary Practice in Veterans Clinics</b>
10:15 AM	<b>Break</b>
10:30 AM	<b>Appellate Limbo: Traps for the Unwary in Joint Motions of Remand</b>
11:00 AM	<b>Advanced Clinical Teaching &amp; Advanced Clinic Design</b>
12:00 PM	<b>Break</b>
12:45 PM	<b>Veterans Law Jobs</b>
1:45 PM	<b>NLSVCC Annual Meeting</b>
2:45 PM	<b>Break</b>
3:00 PM	<b>How Biases Affect Our Advocacy in Positive and Negative Ways</b>

## FRIDAY, JUNE 14

9:00 AM	<b>Identifying Financial Distress in Veterans and What to Do About It</b>
10:00 AM	<b>Growing the NLSVCC: A Strategic Planning Discussion</b>
11:00 AM	<b>Break</b>
11:15 AM	<b>New VA Character of Discharge Regulations: What They Mean and How We Got Here</b>
12:15 PM	<b>Current State of Substitution for Deceased Claimants and Appellants</b>
12:45 PM	<b>Concluding Remarks</b>

**THANK YOU TO OUR SPEAKERS FOR GENEROUSLY OFFERING TO PROVIDE PRESENTATIONS AT NLSVCC'S CONFERENCE!**



**NATIONAL  
LAW SCHOOL  
VETERANS CLINIC  
CONSORTIUM**

# PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

**Experts: Best Practices & Challenges of Cross-Disciplinary Practice in Veterans Clinics** Clinics incorporate experts – think psychologists, social workers, etc. – in a variety of ways. Some clinics use experts in-house as part of the clinic, hiring psychologists or social workers as a part of the clinic’s standard staffing. Law school clinics associated with larger institutions might also have institutional “in-house” experts, e.g., faculty and students from psychology and/or social work programs. Clinics also use external experts, including regular treatment providers; one-time, forensic examiners; and other outside guests. There are also a variety of ways that experts and outside providers participate in clinic, in addition to the provision of direct services to the clinic/clients. For example, experts might participate as guest lecturers in clinic’s seminar class, lecturing on a specific issue, e.g., PTSD, working with clients who have experienced trauma, etc. They might participate in rounds, offering thoughts and opinions as students work through their individual cases. They might also be involved in supervision, offering guidance to students as they work through representation issues, e.g., how to handle a client who will not call them back or a client who will not talk about a traumatic incident. Working with experts provides a clear value-add to the clinic – to clients, staff, and students. However, working with experts also presents a unique set of logistical and ethical hurdles and concerns. The purpose of this presentation is to introduce and develop a discussion focused on the different ways of incorporating experts and non-legal providers into veterans clinics. Specifically, it will prompt conversation on best practices and challenges of incorporating these non-legal experts in the clinic process. The presentation will be participatory, designed to elicit sharing and discussion on different ways clinics utilize and incorporate experts, as well as the ethics of that incorporation. *Ashlyn Anderson-Keelin, Alexander Scherr, Katie Becker, Hugh McClean*

# PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

**Advanced Clinical Teaching & Advanced Clinic Design** Clinical faculty, staff, and students interested in either creating a new advanced veterans law clinic, or, improving and expanding upon an existing one, are encouraged to participate in this session. This collaborative and interactive session will discuss different models of advanced veterans law clinics as well as challenges and lessons learned from designing and implementing them. Additionally, time will be allotted for brain storming sessions to discuss advanced clinic design. Particular questions posed will include: “What veterans law topics and substantive law can be introduced, or, covered more in depth?” “What advanced advocacy or lawyering skills can we build on?” “What kind of clinic work is well suited for the pedagogical goals of an advanced clinic?” *Holly Christian – Detroit Mercy School of Law Veterans Clinic, Carter Brooks Templeton – University of Missouri School of Law Veterans Clinic*

**NLSVCC Annual Meeting** The NLSVCC Board will conduct its annual meeting with NLSVCC members. *NLSVCC Board*

**Veterans Law Jobs** The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Bar Association will host a panel discussion on veterans law jobs. This session will inform law school clinicians about how to best help students get hired. Hear from the people with hiring power at the Court, law firms and non profits and learn about what we can do to set our students up for success in landing a job in veterans law. *Judge Meredith – CAVC, Sarah Fusina – OGC Deputy Chief Counsel, Stacy A. Tromble – NVLSP Director of Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Litigation, Kaitlyn Degnan – Chisholm, Chisholm, & Kilpatrick Senior Attorney*

# PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

**Identifying Financial Distress in Veterans and What to Do About It** The American Bankruptcy Institute (ABI) is the nation's largest association of bankruptcy and restructuring professionals with approximately 11,000 members. It is a non-partisan organization which provides analysis of bankruptcy laws and regulations, provides continuing education to its members and supports a number of projects aimed at improvements in the bankruptcy system. In 2018, the President of ABI formed the Task Force for Veterans and Service Members Affairs. (<https://veterans.abi.org>) The goal of the Task Force is to assist veterans and active duty service members who are in financial distress. The Committee was instrumental in urging Congress to pass the HAVEN Act (Honoring American Veterans In Extreme Need) to exclude certain veterans' disability payments from the calculation of income for the bankruptcy means test (which decides issues such as eligibility for different types of bankruptcy relief and forms the basis for creditor payments in consumer repayment plans). The Task Force's Education Committee is charged with educating practitioners on ways to assist veterans in financial distress and providing reliable information to the veterans themselves on a variety of financial distress topics. This panel discusses identifying and addressing financial distress issues for veterans. The central theme of the panel is the identification of vets who, while seeking advice on other legal issues, have the markers of financial distress. A brief overview of the bankruptcy and out of court options available to individuals in distress will be presented. Sample interview questions will be suggested. Advice on avoiding and addressing credit problems under federal statutes, special protections for veterans when on active duty, recent scams targeting vets and student loan options will be covered. Finally, the panel will discuss what resources may be available to address such issues including the referral resources which the Task Force has identified to date. *Hon. Mary Jo Heston, Hon. Mary Grace Diehl, Kristina Stanger, Esq., Nancy Whaley, Esq.*

# PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

**Growing the NLSVCC: A Strategic Planning Discussion** The National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium (NLSVCC) was founded to support the development of clinics in law schools to support and advocate for veterans. Over the years, the NLSVCC has pursued this mission in several ways, including amicus briefs, policy and legislative advocacy, conferences, boot camps, a website, a newsletter, and other activities. Since the pandemic, much of that work has shifted to remote, online events, reducing the cost of those events. Our membership dues have remained the same, leading us to carry a relatively large, stable pool of cash. During the same period, many of our committees have been extremely active, including the Amicus, Policy Advocacy, Boot Camp, and Conference Planning Committees. Other committees have fallen quiet, but could readily be renewed both for old and new initiatives. To help this year's incoming board, the current Board will host a strategic planning session that will focus on how to build on our successes and to identify new initiatives. The session will start with reports from currently active committees that will describe ways to build on the work the Consortium already does. We will follow with a moderated discussion of other ways to develop the dual mission of the Consortium: supporting veterans clinics; and advocating for veterans. We will end with a list of ideas and approaches that will go to the incoming board for consideration and possible implementation. *NLSVCC Board*

## **Current State of "Substitution" for Deceased Claimants and Appellants**

Review of the current legal landscape for individuals seeking to substitute for deceased claimants at the Department and appellants at the Court after Mayfield, including "required" forms, right to judicial review of VA denial of substitution, role of Secretary in determining right to substitute as a party before the Court. *Douglas J. Rosinski*

# PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

## **New VA Character of Discharge Regulations: What They Mean and How**

**We Got Here** In April 2024, after 8.5 years of advocacy by Swords to Plowshares and the National Veterans Legal Services Program, represented by the Veterans Legal Clinic at the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School and Latham & Watkins as pro bono counsel, the Department of Veterans Affairs issued new character of discharge regulations, which will go into effect in June 2024. These regulations are of paramount importance to the million veterans who received less-than-honorable discharges at the end of their military service, governing how they access critical veteran benefits including disability compensation, health care, pension, and home loans.

In this session, we will describe and analyze the new character of discharge regulations, including discussing the new “compelling circumstances” factor and the new “willful and persistent misconduct” definition. We will compare the new regulation with its predecessor, identify areas of uncertainty and ambiguity, and offer practice tips under the new rule. We will address procedures for seeking favorable COD determinations in pending claims and for veterans who were previously denied eligibility under the old regulations, including the question of proper effective date. The presentation will tie in existing authorities that govern COD determinations—such as prior caselaw and related regulations—to instruct on how those prior authorities apply, if at all, in light of new regulatory language.

In addition, we will offer a brief history of our joint effort to push VA to update the COD regulations. We will present some strategic tools and lessons learned from our experiences that will benefit other veterans advocates who are considering whether and how to pursue a petition for rulemaking to VA or want to learn more generally about advocating for policy change at VA. *Dana Montalto, Renee Burbank, Maureen Siedor*



# PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

## **Appellate Limbo: Traps for the Unwary in Joint Motions for Remand**

Review of personal experience with VA failures to comply with Joint Motion for Remand (JMR) terms and legal requirements, and Court precedents that place such cases indefinitely beyond court review, i.e., appellate limbo. *Douglas J. Rosinski*

## **How Biases Affect Our Advocacy In Positive and Negative ways**

Biases are internal processes everyone relies on to readily process information we have been taught, or experienced. This session will help provide a fundamental education on 6 key points: 1) what are biases, stereotypes, and prejudices? 2) How are they similar? 3) How are they different? 4) How do we develop biases? 5) What are our biases toward veterans, as a nation, state, county, individual? 6) How do we use our biases to develop our skills in advocacy for our veterans? This training will help provide the tools needed for you to take the first step in being a better advocate for yourself, your team, and most importantly, for the veterans we serve.

*Emmanuel Bonilla*

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**BRADEN  
WRIGHT**

**SPEAKER**

Braden Wright is a recent Mizzou Law graduate ('24) working for the Veterans Clinic through the Military Law Transition Program. Braden served the Clinic as a student in the Fall of 2023, primarily assisting veterans in their applications for discharge upgrades. After Braden completes the Bar in July of 2024, he will serve in the United States Air Force in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. As a law student, Braden clerked for the Honorable Judge Edward R. Ardini, Jr., of the Missouri Western District Court of Appeals. Braden also worked as a summer associate for Ketchmark and McCreight, P.C., in Kansas City. Braden is originally from Tulsa, Oklahoma. He graduated from the University of Tulsa with a bachelor's degree in English. Braden currently resides in Omaha, Nebraska, with his wife, Claire. Claire is a medical doctor in the United States Air Force, and she is beginning her family medicine residency at Offutt, AFB. In his free time, Braden enjoys fishing, watching movies with his wife, and spending time with friends and family.



**EMMANUEL  
BONILLA**

**SPEAKER**

Emmanuel "Manny" Bonilla is a multi-racial, cis-gendered, male with a Master's in Clinical Psychology from Argosy University and a Juris Doctor Degree from Stetson University College of Law. Manny has sat on a variety of committees focused on furthering the education of his profession and bringing awareness to diversity issues. He is an Army combat veteran with two tours overseas (Kunar Province, Afghanistan, and Kuwait/Iraq). Manny currently works with The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program as a Staff Attorney with the Discharge Upgrade Program. Additionally, Manny volunteers his time to help veterans with VA disability claims, and other miscellaneous VA issues. He is married, has two kids, two dogs, and a tortoise. When Manny isn't spending time with his wonderful family, he can be found doing a wide variety of activities from learning new sports to solving an escape room style puzzle.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**HON.  
AMANDA L.  
MEREDITH**

**SPEAKER**

Judge Amanda L. Meredith was nominated by the President of the United States in June 2017. She subsequently was confirmed by the United States Senate and appointed a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in August 2017.

For more than 12 years prior to her appointment, Judge Meredith worked for the Republican staff of the United States Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Most recently, she served from 2015 to 2017 as the Deputy Staff Director and General Counsel for Chairman Johnny Isakson. She served as General Counsel from 2008 to 2015 and as Benefits Counsel from 2005 to 2008 under Ranking Member Richard Burr and Chairman/Ranking Member Larry Craig. During this time, she was responsible for legislative and oversight activities regarding a wide range of veterans' issues and assisted Members of Congress in enacting numerous laws to help improve the benefits and services for our nation's veterans.

Prior to joining the staff of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Judge Meredith worked for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for more than seven years. While at the Court, she served from 2004 to 2005 as the Director of the Court's Task Force for Backlog Reduction, a team of experienced attorneys dedicated to reducing the inventory of pending appeals. From 2000 to 2004, she was the Executive Attorney to Chief Judge Kenneth Kramer, serving as the principal legal advisor to the Chief Judge regarding all judicial functions; supervising the chambers law clerks; and managing the chambers caseload. She served from 1997 to 2000 as a judicial law clerk to Judge Kramer.

Judge Meredith graduated summa cum laude from the University at Buffalo with a bachelor of science degree in accounting and graduated magna cum laude from the University at Buffalo Law School, where she was a member of the Buffalo Law Review.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**CHELSEY ROBERTS**

**SPEAKER**

Chesley Roberts serves as the Deputy Director for The Veterans Consortium's Legal Assistance Programs. She began working at TVC in 2020 as a Equal Justice Works Fellow, sponsored by Lockheed Martin Corporation. During her fellowship, Chesley managed TVC's Women Veterans Legal Assistance Program (WVLAP) and focused on the unique legal issues women veterans face. In her current role, Chesley manages WVLAP, where she assists women veterans, who are survivors of Military Sexual Trauma, with their claims for VA disability compensation. Chesley also represents veterans before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veteran's Claims and assists veterans with their applications for discharge upgrades before the Discharge Review Boards/Board for Correction of Military Records. She also manages TVC's Veterans Naturalization Assistance Program (VNAP), which assists veterans who are applying for U.S. citizenship through their military service.



**JENNIFER R. MORRELL**

**SPEAKER**

Jennifer R. Morrell is an Assistant Professor of Law and Director of the Veterans Law Clinic at Widener University Delaware Law School. Professor Morrell joined Delaware Law School in 2010 and has worked as a Staff Attorney and Director of the Veterans Law Clinic. Professor Morrell received a B.A. in English from Salisbury University in 1994 and a J.D. from Temple University's James E. Beasley School of Law in 2004. Following graduation from law school, Professor Morrell worked as a law clerk for The Honorable Linda G. Baxter, then-presiding judge of the Superior Court of New Jersey's Criminal Division in Camden. Professor Morrell serves on the NLSVCC Board and various NLSVCC committees.



**ALEX SCHERR**

**SPEAKER**

Alex Scherr is a Clinical Professor and the Director of the Veterans Legal Clinic at the University of Georgia School of Law. He earned his law degree from the University of Michigan School of Law. He practiced in civil legal services for 12 years with Vermont Legal Aid, including 4 years as director of the Mental Health Law Project. In 1996, he became the Director of Civil Clinics at the University of Georgia School of Law, helping to raise the number of clinic and externship programs from 3 to 18. He has received national and university recognition for his contributions to clinical education and service learning. After serving as Associate Dean for Clinics and Experiential Education from 2016-2018, he became the founding Director of the Veterans Legal Clinic, which helps veterans and their families with claims for benefits from the VA and from the Department of Defense.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**HON. MARY  
GRACE  
DIEHL**

**SPEAKER**

Hon. Mary Grace Diehl – US Bankruptcy Court (Atlanta, GA) – Following her service as a Bankruptcy Judge for the Northern District of Georgia in service to the court for 14 years, Judge Diehl now serves as a recalled judge conducting pro-bono mediations in matters assigned to other bankruptcy judges. Prior to her appointment she was a partner at Troutman Sanders LLP (now Troutman Pepper) where she chaired the Bankruptcy Restructuring Practice. Judge Diehl has received numerous honors and distinctions and has been very active in bankruptcy-related organizations during her career.



**HON. MARY  
JO HESTON**

**SPEAKER**

Hon. Mary Jo Heston – US Bankruptcy Court (Tacoma, WA) – Judge Heston serves as a Bankruptcy Judge for the Western District of Washington. Prior to her appointment, she was a shareholder of Lane Powell PC concentrating her practice on business reorganizations, international insolvency and acquisition of troubled businesses and assets. Judge Heston has also served as a United States Trustee overseeing trustees and fiduciaries in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Alaska, and Montana. In addition to teaching bankruptcy courses for 25 years, Judge Heston has received many distinctions and served in a variety of bankruptcy-related organizations.



**HON.  
CHARLES M.  
WALKER**

**SPEAKER**

Hon. Charles M. Walker – US Bankruptcy Court (Nashville, TN) – Judge Walker serves as a Bankruptcy Judge for the Middle District of Tennessee. An extensive life in public service, Judge Walker has served in the Air Force and the Air Force Reserves, as well as a trial attorney for the United States Trustee. Judge Walker has also served in private practice and is active in many bankruptcy-related organizations. Judge Walker serves in a unique capacity as a federal bankruptcy judge and in the Air National Guard as a major general.



**KRISTA  
STANGER**

**SPEAKER**

Kristina Stanger, Esq – US Army, Lieutenant Colonel (Retired) Kristina Stanger is a shareholder at Iowa's largest law firm, Nyemaster Goode, PC. In addition to concentrating her practice in restructuring and insolvency, she also is a combat-experienced and decorated U.S. Army Lieutenant Colonel. She is active in a wide variety of bankruptcy-related organizations and devotes much of her pro bono service to advocating for Veterans' and their families.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**NANCY  
WHALEY**

**SPEAKER**

Nancy Whaley serves as a Chapter 12 and 13 Trustee for the Northern District of Georgia. In addition to overseeing the administration of cases under chapter 12 and 13 of the US Bankruptcy Code, she is also active in a number of organizations supporting trustees, the legal community in northern Georgia, and as an advocate of women in the profession. Nancy has also retired from the Air Force Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel.



**KATELYN  
DEGNAN**

**SPEAKER**

Chisholm, Chisholm, & Kilpatrick – Kaitlyn joined CCK in September of 2017 as an Associate Attorney. Her practice focuses on representing disabled veterans before the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Kaitlyn earned her J.D. from Syracuse University College of Law, graduating in 2017. She also earned a C.A.S. (Certificate of Advanced Study) in National Security and Counterterrorism Law from the Institute of National Security and Counterterrorism. In 2014, Kaitlyn earned her B.A. in Politics, cum laude, from the Catholic University of America, with minors in Psychology and Philosophy. During law school, she served as the Executive Editor of the Journal of International Law and Commerce, Senior News Reporter of Impunity Watch, and Chief Registrar of the Syrian Accountability Project. She spent a semester representing veterans before the VA in the Veterans Legal Clinic at Syracuse University. Kaitlyn has also held internships with a defense contractor and an electronics company. During her free time, Kaitlyn enjoys reading, traveling, and getting to know the state of Rhode Island.



**STACY A.  
TROMBLE**

**SPEAKER**

Ms. Stacy Tromble is the Director of CAVC Litigation at NVLSP. She is admitted to practice before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and is licensed to practice in the State of New York, the Commonwealth of Virginia, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, and the District of Columbia. Ms. Tromble is also a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States and is admitted to practice in several federal districts. She is also an At-Large Member of the CAVC Bar Association Board of Governors. Prior to joining NVLSP, Ms. Tromble was a senior associate in the government enforcement group of a large international law firm. Her pro bono work at the firm focused on veteran and family law matters. Ms. Tromble earned her law degree from the State University of New York at Buffalo (J.D., summa cum laude, 2007). She also holds a Master of Social Work degree with a mental health concentration.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**JUDY  
CLAUSEN**

**SPEAKER**

Judy Clausen serves as Legal Skills Professor and Supervising Attorney for the Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Clinic at the University of Florida Levin College of Law. In the clinic, she teaches and supervises students who assist in representing veterans in appeals to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Students also submit amicus briefs before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium, as well as in discharge upgrades and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) character of discharge determinations and initial claims. She is the president of the board of the National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium and is cochair of its Policy Advocacy Committee. Judy began her legal career active-duty Army in the Pentagon, where she served in the Honors Program as an Assistant to the General Counsel of the Department of the Army. In law school, she served as a judicial intern for Judge Susan Crawford of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.



**MORGAN  
MACISSAC-  
BYKOWSKI**

**SPEAKER**

Morgan MacIssac-Bykowski is the Associate Director of the Veterans Law Institute and Veterans Advocacy Clinic. As an Adjunct Professor, she co-teaches Veterans Advocacy Clinic and Advanced Veterans Advocacy Clinic alongside Professor Simcox. She is a member of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) Bar Association's Board of Governors, served as the Editor-In-Chief of the CAVC Bar Association's Veterans Law Journal, serves on the Board of Directors and Amicus Committee for the National Veterans Law Clinic Consortium (NVLSCC), and as Ex-Officio of the Staff Advisory Committee at Stetson Law. She has written articles, case summaries, and legal updates on veterans issues for various publications, including the American Bar Association Health Law Section Magazine. She has also co-written numerous amici briefs on behalf of the NVLSCC supporting veterans at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and Supreme Court of the United States. In 2022, she was named to the American Association of Law School's Pro Bono Honor Roll.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**SAMANTHA  
GREER**

**SPEAKER**

Samantha Greer is an Assistant Clinical Law Professor and the Director of the Robert W. Entenmann Veterans Law Clinic. Previously, Samantha was the Coordinating Attorney for the Veterans Initiative with the New York Legal Assistance Group's LegalHealth Division. Samantha joined NYLAG in September 2016 as an Equal Justice Works Fellow, where she established the nation's first legal clinics specifically for women veterans at the Bronx and Manhattan VA hospitals. At NYLAG, Samantha served veterans on a variety of civil legal issues, including VA and other government benefits, family law matters, discharge upgrades, credit issues, and advanced planning. In 2019, Samantha created an innovative training curriculum for non-VA healthcare providers to educate them on veteran cultural competency and veteran status as a social determinant of health. In February 2020, Samantha testified before United States House of Representatives Veterans Affairs Committee's Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations regarding the VA's failed response to military sexual trauma survivors. In March 2021, she testified before the Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs regarding Compensation & Pension examinations, with particular focus on examinations in cases involving military sexual trauma. Samantha is a graduate of New York University School of Law and Georgetown University.



**MO  
SIEDOR**

**SPEAKER**

Maureen "Mo" Siedor directs Swords to Plowshares' Legal Unit which provides legal assistance to homeless and low-income San Francisco Bay Area veterans on their VA benefits claims and military discharge upgrade cases. She originally joined Swords' legal team in 2014. Prior to serving as Legal Director, Mo worked at the Center for Veterans' Advancement at Public Counsel and the Homeless Veterans Project of Inner City Law Center. She began her legal careers as a staff attorney at DNA-People's Legal Services providing legal assistance to survivors of domestic violence on the Navajo Nation. She is a graduate of Boston College Law School and Barnard College of Columbia University, and is a member of the State Bars of California and Colorado.



**SARAH  
FUSINA**

**SPEAKER**

United States Department of Veterans Affairs General Counsel's Office -  
Deputy Chief Counsel



# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**DANA  
MONTALTO**

**SPEAKER**

Dana Montalto is a Senior Clinical Instructor and Lecturer-on-Law in the Veterans Legal Clinic at the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School. At the Clinic, Dana also founded 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), and *Turned Away: How VA Unlawfully Denies Health Care to Veterans with Bad Paper Discharges* on behalf of OUTVETS. Dana was also a Visiting Clinical Lecturer in Law at Yale Law School’s Veterans Legal Services Clinic for the Fall 2020 semester.

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 was a member of both the Veterans Legal Services Clinic and the International Refugee Assistance Project.



**ASHLYN  
ANDERSON-  
KEELIN**

**SPEAKER**

Ashlyn Anderson-Keelin is a clinical teaching fellow in The Bob Parsons Veterans Advocacy Clinic. She comes to UBalt Law from the University of Georgia’s Veterans Legal Clinic. There, she helped veterans and their families obtain valuable benefits and services from the Department of Veterans Affairs, as well as discharge upgrades from the various military service branches. While at UGA, she also played a leading role in organizing a yearlong project of statewide virtual outreach to veterans in Georgia during the pandemic, a project that served over 100 veterans in 96 Georgia counties. Prior to that, Anderson-Keelin spent two years as a staff attorney at Catholic Charities Legal Network, helping low-income D.C. and Maryland residents access pro bono civil legal services. She spearheaded the opening of a new satellite office in Prince George’s County, as well as the creation and use of a network of pro bono Maryland attorneys, eliciting participation from judges and from attorneys and partners in private and public interest law firms. Originally from Kentucky, Anderson-Keelin earned her J.D. from Notre Dame Law School and her B.A. in English literature and political science from Georgetown College in Kentucky.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**HUGH  
MCCLEAN**

**SPEAKER**

McClearn is Associate Professor and Director of the Bob Parsons Veterans Advocacy Clinic. He founded the clinic in 2014, where he directs student attorneys in the representation of veterans in a wide variety of litigation and legislative initiatives. Prior to joining the faculty, McClearn was an assistant professor in the Department of Law, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado, where he received the Outstanding Academy Educator Award in 2010. He twice received the Case Legal Advisor of the Year Award for service as the legal advisor to the Air Force Academy Honor Board, which oversees violations of the Honor Code. McClearn served in the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps from 2003 to 2014 and, in addition to teaching, served as special counsel to the Deputy General Counsel for Acquisition at the Pentagon, and held positions as a prosecutor and defense attorney. Prior to his commissioning, McClearn served as a public defender in Lake County, Ohio. McClearn received his J.D. from Case Western Reserve University School of Law and his LL.M. from The George Washington University Law School, where he was the recipient of the Patricia A. Tobin Government Procurement Law Award for his academic achievement and scholarship in the area of government procurement law.



**KATIE  
BECKER**

**SPEAKER**

Katie M. Becker is the newest staff attorney to join the Veterans Clinic at the University of Missouri School of Law. In this role, she supervises students and manages an active caseload assisting veterans and their dependents with obtaining benefits they have earned through service to our country, primarily before the U. S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. She previously served as the staff attorney for the Veterans Legal Clinic at the University of Georgia School of Law and as an associate appellate attorney with Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick in Providence, RI. She also interned with the Veterans' Consortium Pro Bono Program in Washington, D.C. Becker earned her law degree magna cum laude from Syracuse University College of Law, where she served as an executive editor of the Syracuse Law Review, was inducted into the Order of the Coif and served for four semesters as a student attorney in the school's Veterans Legal Clinic.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**CARTER  
BROOKS  
TEMPLETON**

**SPEAKER**

Carter Brooks Templeton serves as an attorney at the University of Missouri School of Law Veterans Clinic, where he applies his knowledge of veterans' law to help veterans and their families access the benefits they deserve. Prior to joining the Veterans Clinic, Carter practiced appellate litigation at the law firm of Chisholm, Chisholm, and Kilpatrick, located in Providence, Rhode Island, focusing his practice on veterans' law. Carter is a graduate of the University of Missouri School of Law and Truman State University, where he earned his law degree and undergraduate degree, respectively. Before embarking on his legal career, Carter worked in public policy positions within Missouri state government, including at the Missouri Attorney General's Office and Missouri State Treasurer's Office. Carter currently resides in Alexandria, Virginia, with his wife, Lara (who is also a University of Missouri School of Law graduate). Carter is admitted to practice law in Missouri, in the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, the United States Court of Federal Claims, and he is a member of the Missouri Bar Association.



**DOUGLAS J.  
ROSINSKI**

**SPEAKER**

Mr. Rosinski is an attorney based in South Carolina who has concentrated his practice on veterans rights and benefits for nearly three decades. He has litigated cases on behalf of veterans and their families before the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) regional offices, the Board of Veterans' Appeals, the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, state courts, federal district courts, and the federal Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Circuit. He was also lead counsel in the "Lost Laptop" case against VA which obtained what is believed to be the largest settlement for violations of the Privacy Act. His cases have also established the right of surviving spouses to obtain benefits awarded to veterans who die while awaiting VA action on a claim and the right to challenge VA fiduciary actions. Mr. Rosinski has lectured on veterans law across the country and has been sought out for his views on veterans' issues by national and local media, including the New York Times and the Washington Post, and has made appearances on 60 Minutes and local news programs. Mr. Rosinski earned his B.S. in Physics and Astronomy, with distinction, from the University of Rochester, and a J.D., cum laude, from the University of South Carolina School of Law. He is a veteran of the United States Navy Submarine Force where he earned his silver and gold dolphins and qualified as a nuclear Engineering Officer, while entering King Neptune's realm more than once.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**RENEE  
BURBANK**

**SPEAKER**

Renée Burbank is the Director of Litigation at the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP). NVLSP is a national nonprofit organization that has worked since 1981 to ensure that the government delivers to our nation's 18 million veterans and active duty personnel the benefits to which they are entitled because of disabilities resulting from their military service to our country. As Director of Litigation, Ms. Burbank supervises and serves as counsel in lawsuits brought by NVLSP in U.S. district courts and Article III courts of appeals, including NVLSP's class actions and other strategic litigation. She also represents veterans before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Before joining NVLSP, Ms. Burbank worked at Yale Law School as a Robert M. Cover Clinical Teaching Fellow. In that role, she co-taught the school's Veterans Legal Services Clinic and co-supervised census-related litigation and advocacy in the Peter Gruber Rule of Law Clinic. In addition to her clinical teaching, Ms. Burbank also taught legal writing at Yale Law School and at George Washington University Law School. She has presented on a wide range of veterans law topics at legal conferences, including advocating for military sexual trauma survivors; the VA Program for Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers; and free speech issues impacting military veterans worldwide. Prior to working at Yale Law School, Ms. Burbank served for nearly eight years in the Civil Division of the U.S. Department of Justice as trial attorney and senior trial counsel. Her practice included all aspects of civil litigation at the trial and appellate levels, with significant experience in eminent domain, class actions, government contracts, and veterans benefits. Ms. Burbank's work earned her several accolades, including a Civil Division Special Commendation Award. Ms. Burbank is a graduate of the University of Chicago (A.B., with honors) and Harvard Law School (J.D., cum laude). She is an active member in good standing of the D.C., Connecticut, and North Carolina state bars, a member of the CAVC Bar Association, and a VA-accredited attorney.

# SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES



**HOLLY  
CHRISTIAN**

**SPEAKER**

Holly Christian joined Detroit Mercy Law in 2021 as the first Toni A. Wisne Foundation Veterans Clinic Fellow. She was promoted to Director of the Veterans Law Clinic and Assistant Professor of Law in 2022. She is also the faculty advisor to the Mental Health Law Association and coaches the National Veterans Law Moot Court Team. She is currently VA accredited, admitted to practice at the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and barred in both Illinois and Michigan. Holly has provided legal services to individuals and children with disabilities in contested special education and adult guardianship matters at the Jewish Child and Family Services Legal Assistance Department. While at the ABA, she worked on developing and launching the pilot programs of VetLex and the Veterans' Claims Assistance Network ("VCAN"), while serving as Chief Counsel to the Standing Committee on Armed Forces Law and the Coordinating Committee on Veterans Benefits and Services. Holly has also represented low income and homeless veterans as well as provided pro bono program management, volunteer recruitment, and training while employed at Swords to Plowshares. She has presented research, organized community legal clinics, conducted know your rights presentations, and spoken at CLE events related to her practice areas.

# CLE INFORMATION

The following presentations have been approved for CLE credit in Missouri (1.2 ethics credits/1.2 elimination of bias credits/6.0 total credits):

- Experts: Best Practices & Challenges of Cross-Disciplinary Practice in Veterans Clinics
- Appellate Limbo: Traps for the Unwary in Joint Motions for Remand
- How Our Biases Affect our Advocacy in Positive and Negative Ways
- Identifying Financial Distress in Veterans and What to Do About It
- Updating VA's Character of Discharge Regulations
- Current State of Substitution for Deceased Claimants and Appellants

These presentations may qualify for CLE credit in your own state. Please check with your state's Bar to determine whether these presentations comply with its CLE requirements.

If you require certification of attendance to submit your request for CLE, please email Carter Templeton by June 30, 2024. Please note that we are only able to certify registration and attendance generally and cannot verify your attendance at each specific presentation session.