

**11<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL**

**MIZZOU LAW**

**VETERANS CLINIC**

**SYMPOSIUM**

Show-Me Home: Collaborative Efforts to  
Reduce Veteran Homelessness

**PROGRAM**

APRIL 11, 2025

8:00 AM – 3:15 PM

University of Missouri School of Law  
820 Conley Avenue  
Columbia, MO 65211

Online & In-Person

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## About the Mizzou Law Veterans Clinic

Established in 2014, the Clinic represents veterans and their families regarding VA disability benefits and discharge upgrades. Since its inception, the Clinic has secured more than \$20 million in VA disability compensation for its clients as well as numerous discharge upgrades.

Law students can participate in the Clinic as part of their law school curriculum where they get hands-on experience working with real clients prior to graduating. The Clinic offers various types of courses including Veterans Clinic, Advanced Veterans Clinic, Veterans Law, Military Law, and Law of War.

The Clinic also has several programs aimed at specific efforts. These programs include initiative regarding amicus briefing, rural veteran outreach, veteran homelessness, military lawyer support, and a partnership between the Veterans Clinic and Mizzou's medical school.

The Clinic operates on funding from the Missouri State Legislature, grants from the federal government, and private donations. Private donations remain a substantial portion of the Clinic's operating budget.

## The Annual Symposium

Each year since its inception in 2014, the Veterans Clinic has held a Symposium on important topics impacting the veteran community. This year's Symposium centers on the topic of veteran homelessness. Previous topics include burn pits, traumatic brain injuries, and more.

# GENERAL INFORMATION

## Food

Breakfast and lunch are being offered to our in-person attendees who registered prior to attending the Symposium. Walk-ins the day of the Symposium are always welcome but may not be guaranteed a meal.

## Livestream

The Symposium will be live streamed on the Symposium webpage. The livestream is embedded in the webpage, but you may click on the title of the video to open the livestream in a separate window. Attendees attending virtually will have the opportunity to ask questions to the panelists. If you would like to ask a question, please place your question in YouTube's livestream chat feature. A representative in person will ask your question on your behalf. Please note that due to the time constraints associated with the Symposium we may not be able to get to all the questions.

# OUR SPONSORS

The Mizzou Law Veterans Clinic is proud to offer its symposium free of charge to all attendees. Hosting this impactful event requires significant resources, including audio/visual services, catering, and travel for our distinguished speakers.

We are deeply grateful to our community of sponsors whose generosity makes this possible. Their support helps cover these essential expenses, allowing us to create a high-quality event that reaches and inspires hundreds of participants annually. Thank you to the following sponsors who have generously provided financial support to this year's Symposium:

**The Honorable E. Richard Webber**

**Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner**

**Harper, Evans, Hilbrenner & Netemeyer**



# CLE INFORMATION

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual Mizzou Law Veterans Clinic Symposium will be held online and in-person. The Symposium has been pre-approved for CLE credit in numerous states. To view the states that the Symposium has been pre-approved, please navigate to the Symposium webpage via our website at:

**[veteransclinic.missouri.edu](http://veteransclinic.missouri.edu).**

## Attendance Code

Online attendees are **required** to submit the attendance code that will be offered to attendees during the Symposium. A link to the webpage to enter the attendance code is available on the Symposium webpage. The option to submit the attendance code will remain open from the start of the Symposium to shortly afterwards. By inputting the attendance code, we can verify that you attended the Symposium online. This is a requirement for most, if not all, states that CLE has been approved in. The list of those attendees who submitted the attendance code will be provided to various state bar associations. Please be sure to submit this attendance code during the Symposium.

## CLE Feedback & Certificate Request

We would appreciate your feedback on the presentations you viewed for the Symposium. A survey link is available on the Symposium webpage to provide your thoughts and feedback. Additionally, if you need to request a CLE certificate of attendance, the same survey provides an option at the end to request a certificate. Please note that certificates will only be provided to those attendees who registered for the Symposium and who filled out the attendance code form.

# SCHEDULE

TIME	PRESENTATION	SPEAKER(S)
7:30 – 8:00 AM	<b>Breakfast</b>	N/A
8:00 – 8:05 AM	<b>Welcoming Remarks</b>	Dean Paul Litton & President Mun Choi
8:05 – 8:15 AM	<b>Introductory Information</b>	Carter Brooks Templeton
8:15 – 9:15 AM	<b>Understanding Veteran Homelessness: A Holistic Approach</b>	Andy Rogers, Martha Bradley Kleinhesselink, and Brent Filbert
9:15 – 10:15 AM	<b>Discharge Characterizations: Impacts, Legal Framework, Discharge Upgrade Applications</b>	Dana Montalto, Hugh McClean, & Brent Filbert
10:15 – 10:20 AM	<b>Break</b>	N/A
10:20 – 10:30 AM	<b>Collaborative Advocacy: Bridging Legal Expertise and Pro-Bono Service</b>	Brent Filbert & David Chambers
10:30 – 11:30 AM	<b>A Discussion: <i>City of Grants Pass &amp; Criminalization of Homelessness</i></b>	Jeanne Nishimoto & Yelena Duterte
11:30 AM – 12:00 PM	<b>Lunch</b>	N/A
12:00 – 1:00 PM	<b>Veterans Community Project: No One Left Behind</b>	Bryan Meyer
1:00 – 2:00 PM	<b>Effective &amp; Trauma-Informed Representation of Homeless Veterans at VA</b>	Katie Becker
2:00 – 2:10 PM	<b>Break</b>	N/A
2:10 – 3:10 PM	<b>Veterans Treatment Courts: Understanding Their Impact, Function, and Role in Supporting Veterans</b>	Judge Cotton Walker & Gen. Gregg Maxon
3:10 – 3:15 PM	<b>Concluding Remarks</b>	Carter Brooks Templeton

# PRESENTATION DESCRIPTIONS

PRESENTATION	PRESENTATION DESCRIPTION
<b>Understanding Veteran Homelessness: A Holistic Approach</b>	This session provides an in-depth exploration of the root causes and contributing factors to veteran homelessness. Topics include the impact of military service, systemic barriers, mental health challenges, and societal gaps that leave veterans vulnerable to housing insecurity.
<b>Discharge Characterization: Impacts, Legal Framework, Discharge Upgrade Applications</b>	Panelists will discuss how discharge characterizations affect veterans' access to benefits and housing stability. The session will review the legal framework governing discharge upgrades and provide insights into navigating the application process to secure improved outcomes for homeless veterans.
<b>Collaborative Advocacy: Bridging Legal Expertise and Pro-bono Service</b>	This brief presentation will highlight the benefits of working on cases on a pro-bono basis.
<b>A Discussion: City of Grants Pass &amp; Criminalization of Homelessness</b>	This discussion examines the Supreme Court's decision in City of Grants Pass v. Johnson and how it will affect unhoused veterans. Attendees will gain a deeper understanding of the case and opportunities for advocacy.
<b>Veterans Community Project: No One Left Behind</b>	Bryan Meyer will share his transformative insights and experiences working with homeless veterans. His keynote address will focus on innovative strategies and programs that have proven effective in addressing veteran homelessness.
<b>Effective &amp; Trauma-Informed Representation of Homeless Veterans at VA</b>	Learn best practices for advocating on behalf of homeless veterans in claims for VA benefits. This session will highlight common challenges, successful strategies, and the importance of a trauma-informed approach in navigating the VA system.
<b>Veterans Treatment Courts: Understanding Their Impact, Function, and Role in Supporting Veterans</b>	Veterans Treatment Courts provide a path to recovery and stability for justice-involved veterans. Judge Cotton Walker will outline the Court's structure, role in addressing homelessness, and success stories that demonstrate their transformative potential.

# SPEAKERS

SPEAKER	BIOGRAPHY
<b>Dana Montalto</b>	Dana Montalto is a Lecturer-on-Law and Associate Director of the Veterans Legal Clinic at Harvard Law School's Legal Services Center. She represents veterans with less-than-honorable discharges seeking upgrades and benefits and founded the Veterans Justice Pro Bono Partnership to connect them with volunteer attorneys. Dana is the lead author of several major reports on VA access and discharge policy and has published scholarship on veterans law. She earned her B.A. from Wellesley College and J.D. from Yale Law School, where she was active in veterans and refugee advocacy. She joined the Legal Services Center in 2014 after clerking for Judge F. Dennis Saylor IV.
<b>Hugh McClean</b>	Hugh McClean is an Associate Professor and Director of the Bob Parsons Veterans Advocacy Clinic, which he founded in 2014. He supervises student attorneys in representing veterans in litigation and policy work. A former U.S. Air Force JAG from 2003 to 2014, McClean served as a prosecutor, defense attorney, and special counsel at the Pentagon, and taught at the U.S. Air Force Academy, where he earned multiple teaching and service awards. Before his military service, he was a public defender in Ohio. McClean holds an LL.M. from The George Washington University Law School and is a member of the Ohio and Maryland bars.
<b>Brent Filbert</b>	Brent Filbert is Director of The Veterans Clinic at the University of Missouri School of Law, where he also teaches Military Law and Law of Armed Conflict. He brings over 35 years of legal experience in both military and private practice, including roles as a Navy appellate judge, prosecutor, defense counsel, and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney. He previously led military law efforts at the Veteran Advocacy Project and worked as a litigation partner at Shook, Hardy & Bacon. A Mizzou alum, he earned his J.D. with distinction from UMKC, an LL.M. in Trial Advocacy from Temple, and is a distinguished graduate of the Naval War College. He joined the clinic to train students through impactful work serving veterans.
<b>Gregg Maxon</b>	Brigadier General Richard Gregg Maxon retired on July 1, 2008, after a distinguished career in military and state service, most recently as Director of the Arizona Department of Veterans' Services. He began his service in 1972 as an Army linguist, later earning degrees in law and business from Arizona State University. Rejoining active duty in 1980 as a Navy Judge Advocate, he transitioned to the Arizona Army National Guard in 1984, eventually becoming Assistant Adjutant General and earning the rank of Brigadier General in 2000. A licensed attorney, Maxon has served in various judicial roles, including Judge on the Arizona Court of Military Appeals and presiding over the East Valley Regional Veterans Treatment Court. He worked in the Veterans Clinic from spring 2022 - 2024.
<b>Judge Cotton Walker</b>	Judge Cotton Walker serves as the Division 3 Circuit Judge for Cole County in Missouri's 19th Judicial Circuit. Judge Walker has over three decades of legal experience, including 27 years in privates practice and over two decades of being a municipal judge. A graduate of Indiana University and University of Missouri school of Law, he is a former municipal prosecutor and past president of the Missouri Municipal and Associate Circuit Judges Association. He has served on numerous statewide judicial committees and currently oversees Cole County's Treatment Courts. Judge Walker is also active in his community through organizations like Habit for Humanity and Project Homeless Connect.



# SPEAKERS

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<b>Jeanne Nishimoto</b>	Jeanne L. Nishimoto is the Executive Director of the UCLA Veterans Legal Clinic, which provides legal assistance to veterans, caregivers, and families who access services at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs West Los Angeles campus. Her primary areas of practice are issues related to homelessness, housing justice, and access to government benefits. Nishimoto earned her B.A. from Amherst College and her J.D. cum laude from the University of Michigan School of Law where she was a student attorney in the Civil-Criminal Litigation Clinic and Pediatric Advocacy Initiative and Executive Editor for the University of Michigan Journal of Law Reform.
<b>Andy Rogers</b>	Andy is the Show-Me Home Program Coordinator at the Mizzou Law Veterans Clinic, where she helps provide services to eligible veterans facing or at risk of homelessness through funding from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs Veterans Justice Program. A Licensed Clinical Social Worker since 2005, she holds a master's degree from the University of Missouri School of Social Work and brings over a decade of experience from her work at the Harry S. Truman Memorial Veterans Hospital. Her background in clinical social work and veteran care aligns closely with the goals of the Veterans Justice Program.
<b>Yelena Duterte</b>	Yelena Duterte joined UIC School of Law in 2019 as an Assistant Professor of Law and the Director of the Veterans Legal Clinic. Prior to joining UIC, Professor Duterte taught and directed the Veterans Legal Clinic at Syracuse University College of Law. In clinic practice, Duterte is a past-president and active member of the National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium (NLSVCC). She received her law degree from University of Illinois Chicago School of Law and her B.A. in Economics and Political Science from University of Illinois Chicago.
<b>Martha Bradley Kleinhesselink</b>	Martha (Bradley) Kleinhesselink works as an attorney at the Mizzou Law Veterans Clinic representing veterans and their families before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense. In addition to representing clients, Martha supervises law students, teaches the law school's doctrinal Veterans Law course and manages the Medical/Legal Partnership between the Veterans Clinic and the Mizzou School of Medicine. Martha previously served as the inaugural Ben and Carolyn Thomas Fellow. Martha received degrees in Political Science and Criminal Justice and earned her JD from Mizzou Law where she participated in the Veterans Clinic.
<b>Katie Becker</b>	Katie Becker is a staff attorney for the Mizzou Law Veterans Clinic in which she leads the Clinics Amicus briefing efforts at various federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court. Katie also supervises students, teaches the law school's doctrinal Veterans Law course 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. Katie 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

# SPEAKERS

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<b>David Chambers</b>	David Chambers is an Associate attorney at Bryan Cave Leighton Paisner. Chambers has worked closely with the Veterans Clinic, representing veterans referred to him for discharge upgrade cases. Before becoming an attorney, David led, trained and directed a team of intelligence specialists while serving in the United States Marine Corps. He was awarded the Purple Heart Medal and Achievement Medal with Valor. David received his J.D. from Fordham University School of Law. He also holds an M.A. from Columbia University as well as a B.A., cum laude, from Saint Louis University.
<b>Bryan Meyer</b>	Bryan Meyer is the co-founder and CEO of the Veterans Community Project which provides housing and support to veterans across the United States. Established in Kansas City, Missouri, by a group of combat Veterans, Veterans Community Project provides high quality and well-developed strategic services that enable Veterans to meet the challenges of day-to-day living, resolve immediate crises, and move towards permanent stability. Meyer is a graduate of the University of Missouri–Kansas City where he earned a B.S. in Political Science, a Master's in Public Administration and a Juris Doctor from the University's School of Law.