



**9TH ANNUAL VETERANS' LEGAL ASSISTANCE
CONFERENCE & TRAINING:
SERVICEMEMBER TO CIVILIAN: UNDERSTANDING
VETERANS' NEEDS AFTER SERVICE**

**FRIDAY, JUNE 2, 2017
8:00 A.M. - 4:45 P.M.**

**UNIVERSITY OF BALTIMORE SCHOOL OF LAW
1401 N. Charles Street, Baltimore, MD 21201**

CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS INCLUDE:

Homeless Persons Representation Project | Maryland Chapter of the Federal Bar Association
Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland | University of Baltimore School of Law
The Bob Parsons Veterans Advocacy Clinic at the University of Baltimore
University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law's Veteran Advocates for Military Practice and Personnel
Veterans and Military Law Section of the Federal Bar Association

CO-SPONSORED BY:

American Bar Association Commission on Veterans Legal Services | Veterans' Consortium Pro Bono Program
Veterans' Affairs and Military Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association

AGENDA

8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M. REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST

8:45 A.M. - 9:00 A.M. OPENING REMARKS

- **Hugh McClean**, *Professor, University of Baltimore School of Law*
- **Ronald Weich**, *Dean of University of Baltimore School of Law*
- **Antonia Fasanelli**, *Executive Director, Homeless Persons Representation Project*

CONCURRENT SESSION 1

9:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

**VETERANS BENEFITS 101
ROOM 803**

PRO BONO COMMITMENT REQUIRED

- **Swapna Yeluri**, *Homeless Persons Representation Project*
- **Michael Stone**, *Homeless Persons Representation Project*

**REPRESENTING SERVICEMEMBERS IN DISCHARGE UPGRADES
ROOM 802**

PRO BONO COMMITMENT REQUIRED

- **Prof. Elizabeth Tarloski & Eleyse D'Andrea**, *William & Mary Law School*
- **Prof. Jason Manne**, *University of Pittsburgh School of Law*
- **Prof. Hugh McClean**, *University of Baltimore School of Law*
- **James Richardson**, *Federal Bar Association*

10:00 A.M. - 12:00 P.M.

**MENTOR TRAINING 101: VETERANS MENTORING VETERANS
IN BALTIMORE CITY AND ANNE ARUNDEL COUNTY VETERANS
TREATMENT COURT
ROOM 102**

- **Adobolia Buford**, *Veterans Court Coordinator, Eastside District Court, Baltimore City*
- **Steven Wrobel**, *President, MSBA Veterans Affairs & Military Law Section*

**12:15 - 1:15 p.m. Lunch & Keynote Address - Judge John J. "Jack" Farley, III, Retired Judge of the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals
Business Center Atrium (Exit the law school and cross both Mount Royal Avenue and Charles Street)**



In 1989, Jack Farley was nominated by President George H. W. Bush and confirmed by the United States Senate as a Judge of the United States Court of Veterans Appeals for a term of fifteen years. After serving the Court in recall status for seven additional years, he retired in 2012. Prior to his appointment, Jack was a Director of the Torts Branch, Civil Division, United States Department of Justice. In the U.S. Army from 1966 until his retirement as a captain in 1970 due to 100% disability from wounds received during combat in Vietnam, Jack was awarded four Bronze Star Awards (three with "V" Device), two Purple Hearts, and the Army Commendation Medal. The author of numerous articles, he has been a lecturer and faculty member at numerous seminars and training programs, and he was an adjunct professor at the Columbus School of Law of the Catholic University of America. He served on the board of directors for both the Amputee Coalition of America (ACA) and the U.S. Armed Forces Amputee Patient Care Program. An ACA-certified amputee peer visitor and trainer, he continues to visit, train and certify amputee peer visitors, and he was on the faculty of the Military Amputees Advanced Skills Training Programs in 2004, 2006, and 2007. The Paralyzed Veterans of America presented him with the Harry A. Schweikert, Jr. Disability Awareness Award in August 2007. Recently, he co-founded n2grate Government Technology Solutions, LLC ("n2grate"), a data center and cloud integration company for which he serves as vice president. An avid golfer, skier, and instructor of disabled skiers, Jack completed the 2005 New York City; the 2006 – 2008 and 2011 - 2016 Marine Corps Marathons; and the 2013 Palm Beaches Marathon on a hand cycle with wounded warriors from Iraq and Afghanistan. He received his A.B. degree in economics from the College of the Holy Cross; his M.B.A. degree from the Columbia University Graduate School of Business; and his Juris Doctorate, cum laude, from Hofstra University School of Law.

CONCURRENT SESSION 2

1:30 P.M. - 3:00 P.M.

**BEST PRACTICES BEFORE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARDS
AND BOARDS FOR CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS
ROOM 802**

MODERATOR - PROF. HUGH MCCLEAN

- **Colonel Lisa Craig**, *President, Air Force Discharge Review Board*
- **Major Robin Donato**, *Air Force Legal Operations Agency*
- **Elizabeth Hill**, *Executive Director, Board for Correction of Naval Records*
- **Joseph Masterson**, *Legal Advisor, Army Review Board Agency*
- **Robert Powers**, *President, Naval Discharge Review Board*

**ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO EXPEDITE
CLAIM AND SERVICE DECISIONS
ROOM 803**

MODERATOR - ROBERT RHUDY

- **Ramona Buck**, *Commissioner, Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service*
- **Judge John Crowley**, *Interim Chief Veterans Law Judge, Board of Veterans' Appeals*

CONCURRENT SESSION 3

3:15 P.M. - 4:45 P.M.

**SERVICEMEMBERS, THEIR FAMILIES, AND THE
IMMIGRATION SYSTEM
ROOM 803**

- **Tina Goel**, *Associate, Taylor & Ryan*
- **Brian Schmitt**, *Partner, Hake & Schmitt*

**THE IMPACT OF SERVICE ON EMPLOYMENT
ROOM 802**

MODERATOR - SWAPNA YELURI

- **Samuel Adams**, *Veteran's Employment Specialist, Easter Seals*
- **Prof. Marcy Karin**, *University of the District of Columbia School of Law*
- **LeRoy Thomas**, *Veterans Program Manager, Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulations*

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

Samuel Adams has been an employee of Easter Seals serving DC|MD|VA since May 2015. Easter Seals hired Sam as a Veteran Employment Specialist working with their Homeless Female Veterans and Veterans With Families Program from May 15, 2015 to June 30, 2016. In July a new program was added to the Homeless Veterans Program called Incarcerated Veterans Transition Program where he was promoted to lead Employment Specialist. The program focuses on helping previously incarcerated Veterans who are homeless or at risk of being homeless to reintegrate back into the workforce. Sam is a United States Army Vietnam/Gulf War Era Veteran (First Sergeant E-8 (Retired)).

Ramona Buck serves as a Commissioner with the Office of Alternative Dispute Resolution at the Federal Mediation and Conciliation Service in Washington, D.C. She designs conflict management processes, trains, facilitates, mediates, and manages contracts for the services that FMCS provides for the federal government, which includes the VA. Previously she worked for the Maryland Mediation and Conflict Office under the Judiciary, the Circuit Court for Prince George's County and the Northern Virginia Mediation Service. Over the past thirty years, she has provided mediation for hundreds of workplace, civil, family and community cases.

Adobolia Buford is an Army veteran who served on active duty and reserve training from 1991-2005. During his service, Adobolia's Military Occupational Specialty (MOS) was 91Q (Y7) (Pharmacy Specialist/ Intravenous Additives & Chemotherapy agents). Formally educated at The University of Phoenix with an emphasis on Business Management and Management, he served as a Military Enrollment Counselor at the university for 5 years before going to work for the Urban League as Assistant Director of Education and Training. Currently, Adobolia serves as the Mentor Coordinator for the Baltimore City Veterans Treatment Docket through The United Way of Central Maryland. In this role, he recruits, screens, trains, supervises, and retains veterans to serve as peer mentors for justice involved veterans.

Colonel Lisa Craig is the President of the Air Force Discharge Review Board and the Reserve Advisor to the Air Force Review Board Agency. She serves as an adjunct member of the Air Force Personnel Board, the Personnel Security Appeal Board, and the Air Force Decorations Board. Most recently she served as Commander, 433d Mission Support Group where she provided leadership and support to the mission of the 433d Airlift Wing comprised of over 3,000 personnel assigned to 22 units and 1 geographically separated supported unit. Previously, Colonel Craig also served as Field Manager leading the successful implementation of the Chief of Staff of the Air Force-directed migration of the Management Internal Control Toolset from an Air Force Reserve program to its Air-Force wide use. Colonel Craig was commissioned a second lieutenant upon completing Reserve Officer Training Corps in 1989.

Judge John C. Crowley is Interim Chief Veterans Law Judge for the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA). Appointed as a Judge for the BVA in July 2005, he has 25 years of experience addressing cases previously before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, six years working exclusively on cases that had been formerly before this Court. Immediately before his appointment he was a Senior Counsel for BVA, working on the most complex cases previously before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. In fiscal year 2015 Judge Crowley had forty decisions affirmed by the U.S. Court of Veterans Claims, more than any other Veterans Law Judge, an achievement he has maintained for the last four years. Judge Crowley has addressed in his career more than 5,000 cases previously before the Veterans Court, holding over 3,300 hearings with Veterans in every state. He earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, magna cum laude, from the University of Massachusetts in Amherst in 1987 and juris doctor degree from Suffolk University Law School in 1990.

Elyse D'Andrea is an Equal Justice Works Legal Fellow at William and Mary Law School's Lewis B. Puller Jr., Veterans Benefits Clinic, where her work focuses on separations and discharge upgrades. In addition to casework, she is developing educational training materials regarding military separations, less than honorable discharges, and the long-term impact of both on the lives of veterans. She is a graduate of the University of Florida and the William and Mary School of Law.

Major Robin Donato is an Individual Mobilization Augmentee (IMA/Category B Reservist) assigned to the Military Justice Division, Air Force Legal Operations Agency, Joint Base Andrews, MD. Major Donato received a direct commission as an Air Force judge advocate in December 1991 and entered active duty in January 1992. She has served as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Circuit Trial Counsel, and Chief of Military Justice. She is admitted to practice law before the Supreme Courts of New Jersey and New York, the United States District Court for the District of New Jersey, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. In her civilian capacity, Major Donato works for a medical malpractice/personal injury firm in New Jersey.

Tina R. Goel currently serves on the National Board of Directors for the Federal Bar Association's Younger Lawyers Division and on the Advisory Board of the of the Federal Bar Association's Immigration Law. Ms. Goel is an associate at Taylor & Ryan LLC in Baltimore, MD. Ms. Goel practices family sponsorship and employment-based immigration before the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services and the Executive Office for Immigration Review. Her experience includes complex family-based petitions, employment visas for high-skilled workers, and waivers for criminal activity, unlawful presence, and the 2-year home residency requirement. She has authored articles on immigration law and spoken at national and local venues on immigration issues. She is a member of the American Immigration Lawyer Association's Military Assistance Program Committee and most recently chaired the AILA-DC chapter's immigration law conference in the DC metro area. She was honored to be selected to receive the Younger Lawyer of the Year Award by the FBA-ILS in 2016.

Elizabeth A. Hill is Executive Director for the Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR) within the Department of the Navy. She manages the executive and administrative functions of the BCNR and informs prospective applicants and their counsel concerning established policies and procedures of the BCNR. Ms. Hill also supervises the preparation of estimates of appropriations required to pay claims resulting from the Board's corrections of military and naval records. Immediately prior to this position, Ms. Hill was Deputy Director/ANG Advisor for the Secretary of the Air Force Personnel Council (SAFPC). Ms. Hill is a graduate of University of Maryland University of College (Bachelor of Science, Financial Management) and Central Michigan University (Master of Science of Administration, Human Resources).

Marcy Karin is an Associate Professor and the Jack and Lovell Olender Director of the Legislation Clinic at the University of the District of Columbia David A. Clarke School of Law. She teaches and writes in employment law, civil justice for the military community, women's legal history, and clinical pedagogy. She is an active member of the national work-life and military support communities and regularly speaks about the role of thoughtful public policy in these areas. Prior to joining UDC, Karin was a Clinical Professor of Law and Director of the Work-Life Law and Policy Clinic at the Arizona State University Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law. Previously, Karin served as Legislative Counsel for Workplace Flexibility 2010 and as an Adjunct Professor of Law, Teaching Fellow, and Supervising Attorney at Georgetown University Law Center's Federal Legislation and Administrative Clinic. Karin is a graduate of American University (BA); Stanford Law School (JD); and Georgetown University Law Center (LLM).

Jason W. Manne is an attorney located in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. He practiced administrative law as a state government attorney for more than 30 years, and he now supervises the Veterans Law Practicum clinical program at the University of Pittsburgh School of Law and holds an appointment as an Adjunct Professor of Law. Jason teaches law students and, through the Practicum, provides free legal services to veterans. These services are concentrated in the areas of military discharge upgrades and complex VA benefit claims. Jason also has a limited private practice.

SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS (CONT'D)

Joseph Masterson is a Legal Advisor at the Army Review Boards Agency. The Army Review Boards Agency (ARBA) administers 14 boards, including the Army Board for Correction of Military Records, the Army Discharge Review Board, and the Army Grade Determination Review Board. Prior to joining ARBA, Mr. Masterson was an Army Judge Advocate for twenty years. Mr. Masterson received his J.D. from the University of Akron School of Law; an LL.M. in Tax Law from the University of Florida; and his B.S. from Penn State University.

Hugh McClean joined the faculty at the University of Baltimore School of Law as Assistant Professor and Director of the Bob Parsons Veterans Advocacy Clinic in 2016 after serving two years as a visiting professor. McClean directs student attorneys in the representation of veterans in a wide variety of litigation and legislative initiatives. Prior to joining the faculty, McClean directed the legal writing program in the Department of Law, U.S. Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado. McClean served in the U.S. Air Force Judge Advocate General Corps from 2003 to 2014 and held positions as a prosecutor, defense attorney, law professor, and assistant general counsel. McClean is a graduate of The George Washington University Law School (LLM) and Case Western Reserve University School of Law (JD), and is a member of the Ohio and Maryland bars.

Robert C. 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.

Robert J. Rhudy is a lawyer, mediator, trainer and consultant with over forty years' experience in legal aid, access to justice, and mediation. He has served as executive director of Maryland Legal Services Corporation, creator and director of the Maryland Court of Special Appeals' Alternative Dispute Resolution Division, and founder and president of Senior Mediation and Decision-Making, Inc. An army veteran, he served on Maryland State Bar Association's Veterans Affairs and Military Law Section Council during 2012-2015.

James ("Jim") S. Richardson is a mediator in the areas of general civil law and family law and a certified Veteran's Administration claims agent, assisting military veterans with disability claims. From August of 1982 – October of 2008 he served as Senior Attorney – Advisor of the U. S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces (Formerly the Court of Military Appeals). Mr. Richardson has an extensive military background, serving in various capacities including as head of the Discharge Review Section and Senior Military Judge and Officer In Charge, USMD Special Court-Martial Judiciary Activity. In June, Mr. Richardson will be honored with the 2017 Maryland Pro Bono Service Retired Pro Bono Volunteer Award. He is a graduate of Frostburg State University and received his Juris Doctor from the University of Maryland School of Law. His bar admissions include: Supreme Court of the United States; Court of Appeals of Maryland; Federal Circuit Courts of Appeals for the Second, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, Ninth, and Federal circuits; Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces; and Court of Veterans Appeals.

Brian Schmitt is a partner at Hake & Schmitt in New Windsor, Maryland, where he concentrates on all kinds of waiver applications with an emphasis on J-1 waivers. In particular, he focuses on Form I-612 hardship and persecution waivers, handling such matters at all stages, including administrative appeals and federal litigation. He is interested in litigation involving judicial review of J-1 waiver denials based on negative State Department Recommendations. He holds memberships in the following organizations: American Immigration Lawyers Association (AILA), International Medical Graduate Taskforce (comprising J-1 lawyers across the United States), IMMLOG Listserve, AILA Military Assistance Program (AILA MAP), and the ABA Military Pro Bono Project. He serves on the editorial board of Bender's Immigration Bulletin. He is also a Major, Judge Advocate (Reservist), in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, where he focuses on military justice (criminal law), administrative law, international and operational law, and legal assistance. He is particularly interested in military-immigration law issues. Brian served on the AILA MAP Task Force in since 2014. He received his B.S. in General Biology from the Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio. He received his J.D. from the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law, Detroit, Michigan.

Michael Stone joined HPRP as a Legal Apprentice Fellow in September 2013 and transitioned to Temporary Pro Bono Counsel at HPRP in March 2014. There he operated HPRP's Veteran Legal Assistance Project (VLAP) legal clinic at the Baltimore VA Medical Center Annex. In September 2014, Michael began his two-year Equal Justice Works fellowship, with partner sponsors Lockheed Martin and Hogan Lovells and started the Rural Veterans Legal Assistance Project (RVLAP). RVLAP aims to reduce veteran homelessness in rural Maryland by providing legal assistance and advocacy on VA benefits through the innovative use of technology linking non-rural pro bono attorneys to rural veterans. Michael currently operates a monthly legal clinic at the Perry Point VA Medical Center with the service provider Chesapeake Health and Education Program, and opened another legal clinic in St. Mary's county with the service provider Three Oaks Center. Michael received his J.D. with honors from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 2013, and a B.A. with honors in Political Science from Sonoma State University in 2009.

Elizabeth Tarloski is a Visiting Professor of Practice at William and Mary Law School's Lewis B. Puller Jr., Veterans Benefits Clinic, where she teaches and supervises students on VA disability benefits cases and discharge upgrades. She has experience with justice involved veterans through her criminal record expungement work in Pennsylvania and work with Veterans Treatment Courts in Virginia. She is a graduate of Drexel University, Thomas R. Kline School of Law, and has her Master of Science, Gender, Development and Globalization from the London School of Economics and Political Science.

LeRoy Thomas hails from the state of Maryland, and the city of Baltimore. He has previously worked in the U.S. federal government for over 38 years; 24 years were spent on active duty in the United States Air Force (covered Vietnam & 1st Gulf wars). LeRoy Thomas assumed the duties of Veterans Program Manager for the Department of Labor, Licensing, and Regulations on August 6, 2014; prior to that he provided outreach, case management, counseling, advocacy, and other needed services to disabled, homeless and all other Veterans in any environment. Degrees held: MSW & BS in Psychology.

Steven Wrobel has been practicing law for over 25 years, first as an Air Force Judge Advocate from 1991 to 1997, and then upon returning to his home state of Maryland, as a private practitioner for the past nearly two decades. While in the Air Force, Steven worked as a prosecutor, a defense counsel, and a contracts litigation attorney, gaining valuable experience in both criminal and civil legal matters. Steven continues a far-ranging litigation practice, representing individuals accused of crimes, companies that need internal investigations to be conducted by outside counsel, and employers seeking to enforce restrictive covenants against former employees. He has also represented many professionals and corporations before various licensing boards and in other administrative forums.

Swapna Yeluri is director of pro bono programs for the Homeless Persons Representation Project. Yeluri's entire professional and legal career has been focused on working with nonprofits and low-income clients. She is also the current treasurer of the Veterans' Affairs and Military Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association. She received a J.D. from Roger Williams University School of Law in 2007 and a B.A. in general business management from Michigan State University in 2003.