



## 10<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL VETERANS' LEGAL ASSISTANCE CONFERENCE & TRAINING:

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**FRIDAY, JUNE 1, 2018**  
**8:00 A.M. - 5:00 P.M.**

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

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**SPONSORED BY:**

The Bob Parsons Veterans Advocacy Clinic at the University of Baltimore School of Law  
Elder Law & Disability Rights Section of the Maryland State Bar Association  
Maryland Chapter of the Federal Bar Association  
Veterans' Affairs & Military Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association  
Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program  
Young Lawyers Section of the Maryland State Bar Association

**CONFERENCE ORGANIZERS INCLUDE:**

Homeless Persons Representation Project  
Maryland Chapter of the Federal Bar Association  
Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland  
The Bob Parsons Veterans Advocacy Clinic at the University of Baltimore School of Law  
Veterans & Military Law Section of the Federal Bar Association  
Veterans' Affairs & Military Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association

## AGENDA

8:00 A.M. - 8:45 A.M. **REGISTRATION & BREAKFAST** (SPONSORED BY THE ELDER LAW & DISABILITY RIGHTS SECTION OF THE MSBA)

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

- Hugh McClean, Professor, University of Baltimore School of Law
- Sharon E. Goldsmith, Executive Director, Pro Bono Resource Center of Maryland
- Ronald Weich, Dean, University of Baltimore School of Law
- Antonia Fasanelli, Executive Director, Homeless Persons Representation Project

Wi-Fi: NETWORK: ubalt-guest  
USERNAME: auxsvc6  
PASSWORD: Nm38330

## MORNING TRAININGS

### TRACK ONE - FOR VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS

#### VETERANS BENEFITS 101

ROOM 802 (9:00 AM to 12:00 PM)

PRO BONO COMMITMENT REQUIRED

- LONNELLE CALLOWAY, Homeless Persons Representation Project Client
- SWAPNA YELURI, Homeless Persons Representation Project

### TRACK TWO - FOR VETERANS & OTHER ADVOCATES

#### MENTOR TRAINING 101: VETERANS MENTORING VETERANS IN VETERANS TREATMENT COURT

ROOM 803 (9:00 AM to 10:45 AM)

- JAMES L. MINTER, Ed.D., Veterans Treatment Court
- STEVEN WROBEL, Law Office of Steven Wrobel, LLC

#### KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: VETERANS BENEFITS

ROOM 803 - (11:00 AM to 12:00 PM)

- Christina Askins Curtis, Homeless Persons Representation Project

## LUNCH PROGRAM (12:15 PM - 1:45 PM) LAW SCHOOL, 12TH FLOOR

**FRED L. SHINBUR**, Chairperson, Maryland Veterans Commission

**JILL BROWN-WILLIAMS**, Homeless Persons Representation Project Board Member

Ms. Jill Williams served honorably in the U.S. Coast Guard from 1975 to 1981. She currently serves as a board member for the Homeless Persons Representation Project. She has been involved in various projects to advocate on behalf of low-income clients and veterans.

### KEYNOTE: FRANCINE C. BLACKMON,

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Review Boards) and Director of the Army Review Boards Agency (ARBA)



Ms. Francine C. Blackmon was appointed as the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army (Review Boards) and Director of the Army Review Boards Agency (ARBA) on December 15, 2013. She is responsible for the operations of fourteen Army personnel boards, including the Army Board for Correction of Military Records, the Army Discharge Review Board, the Army Special Review Boards, the Army Clemency and Parole Board, and the Army Grade Determination Review Board; and provides oversight of the Army's Law Enforcement and Corrections missions. Prior to her current assignment, she served as the Deputy Assistant Secretary, Air Force Management Integration.

Ms. Blackmon is originally from Sacramento, CA. Upon graduation from the University of Maryland, she was commissioned as an officer in the Air Force. Ms. Blackmon's 24-year military career was performed in the field of human resources. She served in such positions as the Chief of the Commander's Issues Team at the Air Force Personnel Center, Randolph AFB, TX; Mission Support Squadron Commander at Fairchild AFB, WA; and Chief of the Air Force Skills Management Division at Headquarters, U.S. Air Force. Ms. Blackmon has extensive joint service experience including assignments in the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Under Secretary of Defense (Personnel and Readiness).

### AFTERNOON I (2:00 PM - 3:25 PM)

#### BEST PRACTICES BEFORE DISCHARGE REVIEW BOARDS (ROOM 802)

MODERATOR - HUGH McCLEAN, University of Baltimore School of Law

- FRANCINE BLACKMON, Army Review Boards Agency
- ELIZABETH HILL, Board for Correction of Naval Records
- JOSEPH MASTERSON, Army Review Boards Agency
- ROBERT POWERS, Naval Discharge Review Board
- COL. SHANE T. PRATER, Air Force Discharge Review Board
- STEVE SHAPPELL, Army Review Boards Agency
- JACKIE R. TILLERY, Army Review Boards Agency

#### RESOURCES FOR SERVICEMEMBERS (ROOM 803)

MODERATOR - JIM RICHARDSON, Federal Bar Association

- MARC BOWMAN, Health Care for the Homeless
- HELEN DANIEL, Project PLASE
- ANDY ZIPAY, Chase Brexton Health Care

### AFTERNOON II (3:35 PM - 5:00 PM)

#### DISCHARGE ADVOCACY (ROOM 802)

MODERATOR - SWAPNA YELURI, Homeless Persons Representation Project

- DANICA GONZALVES, The Veterans Consortium Discharge Upgrade Program
- HUGH McCLEAN, University of Baltimore School of Law
- JIM RICHARDSON, Federal Bar Association
- KATHLEEN SKULLNEY, Homeless Persons Representation Project Volunteer Attorney
- DAVID SONENSHINE, National Veterans Legal Services Program

#### CUSTODY, DIVORCE, AND SUPPORT ISSUES FOR MILITARY FAMILIES (ROOM 803)

MODERATOR - JOHN PRICE, Law Offices of John Price

- J. MICHAEL LAWLOR, Law Offices of J. Michael Lawlor
- MIKE MAY, Law Offices of Michael P. May
- MARLA ZIDE, Law Office of Marla Zide

## SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

**Christina Askins Curtis** is the Pro Bono Program Paralegal at the Homeless Persons Representation project. She holds a graduate certificate in Paralegal Studies from Anne Arundel County Community College and a Bachelor of Arts in Politics from Marymount University in Arlington, VA.

**Marc Bowman** is a SOAR Specialist with Healthcare for the Homeless who prioritizes veterans. He has a Master's Degree in Social Work from Howard University and completed practicums in micro and macro practice with a focus in the areas of mental health and homeless populations. He has worked in social work and mental health services for over 22 years, helping various population groups in DC, Maryland and Virginia. He has served at-risk youth; emotionally challenged children and teens; dual-diagnosed persons with mental health and substance abuse problems; seniors suffering with psychosomatic issues; individuals in recovery from alcohol and substance abuse; urgent, emergent, and SMI (severe mental illness) homeless veterans; homeless individuals and families; and the chronically homeless. His passion is serving those most vulnerable in society through role modeling, networking and community partnerships.

**Lonnelle Calloway** had two enlistment periods in the United States Navy spanning from January 1999 to March 2007. While in service, he received various accolades including: Navy Good Conduct Medal, Navy and Marine Corps Achievement Medal, Navy Surface Warfare Specialty Insignia, Enlisted Air Warfare Specialist Insignia, Pistol Sharpshooter Ribbon, and Sea Service Deployment. Since his service, Lonnelle has been involved in various community service activities. Currently, he volunteers with his local YMCA.

**Helen Daniel** has been working for the Supportive Services for Veteran Families (SSVF) department at Project PLASE for a year and a half and was recently promoted to Community Outreach Coordinator. She spent 10 years serving in the United States Air Force. Since being promoted to Outreach Coordinator six months ago Helen has helped over 70 veterans enroll into the SSVF program to receive eviction prevention services or rapid rehousing. She is currently running two programs that aim to motivate, inspire and empower women and girls to live their best lives.

**Danica Gonzalves** is an Equal Justice Works Fellow sponsored by Akin Gump Strauss Hauer and Feld LLP and AT&T. She currently serves as director of The Veterans Consortium Discharge Upgrade Program. The Program provides pro bono representation to veterans who received Other Than Honorable discharges due to conduct related to post-traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and other mental health conditions. Her legal background includes mental health law and advocacy.

**Elizabeth A. Hill** is Executive Director for the Board for Correction of Naval Records (BCNR) within the Department of the Navy. The mission of the BCNR is to provide a method for correction of errors or removal of injustices from current and former Navy and Marine Corps member's military records. The BCNR is the highest level of administrative appeal in the Department of the Navy. 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 College (Bachelor of Science in Financial Management) and Central Michigan University (Master of Science in Administration, Human Resources).

**J. Michael Lawlor** is a graduate of Loyola College (1967) and the University of Baltimore Law School (1973). He served two years of active duty in the United States Army between college and law school. He has been a solo practitioner doing exclusively family law in Towson, Maryland for 30 years.

**Joseph Masterson** is the Senior Legal Advisor at the Army Review Boards Agency (ARBA). Prior to joining ARBA in 2015, Mr. Masterson was an Army Judge Advocate for twenty years. Mr. Masterson received his J.D. from the University of Akron School of Law; his LL.M. in Tax Law from the University of Florida; and his B.S. from Penn State University.

**Michael P. May** has practiced for 38 years. An Army veteran who served in Vietnam in 1967-68 for 13 months with the 4th Infantry Division, he currently serves as Judge Advocate for the National 4th Infantry Division Association. He also serves as a mentor in the Baltimore City Veterans Service Court. He retired as the Judge Advocate of the Maryland Defense Force and recently became Judge Advocate of the U.S. Veterans Service Corps. He received a line of duty disability retirement from the Baltimore Police Department as a detective sergeant and serves as a board member of the Baltimore Retired Police Benevolent Association. He is a magna cum laude graduate of the University of Baltimore School of Law. He finished 2nd in his class, served as managing editor of the Law Review, acted as Chief Justice of the Honor Court and received the Law Faculty Award at graduation. He has an MS degree in criminal justice from the University of Baltimore and a BA in sociology from Loyola University in Maryland where he received the Sociology Medal at graduation.

**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.

**Dr. James L. Minter** is an Instructional Systems Designer and delivers training and education to government agencies and the private sector.

**Robert C. Powers** currently serves as the President for the Naval Discharge Review Board (NDRB). As President, he is responsible for the management, integrity, and efficiency of the NDRB to conduct final determinations as to whether military discharges of former members of the naval service warrant change based on the principles of propriety and equity.

## SPEAKERS AND PANELISTS

**Colonel Shane Prater** is the President of the Air Force Discharge Review Board and the Director of the Secretary of the Air Force Personnel Council (SAFPC). As SAFPC Director, he acts for, recommends to, and announces decisions on behalf of the Secretary of the Air Force for a variety of military personnel issues. He earned his commission through the Air Force ROTC program at the University of Kentucky in 1994 and has held a variety of Force Support assignments at the squadron, numbered Air Force, major command, and Headquarters Air Force levels. Before assuming his current position, he was the Chief, Strategy, Plans, and Programs Division, Directorate of Plans and Integration, Headquarters Air Force, the Pentagon.

**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 1982 – October 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 2017, Mr. Richardson was honored with the 2017 Maryland Pro Bono Service Retired Pro Bono Volunteer Award. He is a graduate of Frostburg State University and received his JD 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.

**Steve Shappell** has been the Army Review Boards Agency (ARBA) Executive Officer since September 2014. Prior to becoming a government civilian employee, he served 30 years as an active duty Army Officer in the fields of Human Resources and Public Affairs, retiring as a Colonel in 2014. He began his military career in 1981 as an enlisted soldier in the Texas Army National Guard. He holds Masters Degrees in international relations, public administration, and national security.

**Kathleen Skullney** is a native of Northern Illinois and moved to Maryland nearly 40 years ago. Kathleen worked in finance and banking in Illinois and later in Baltimore as a securities and investment representative, licensed to trade in stocks, bonds and commodities. She obtained her JD from the University of Baltimore and has practiced in both the federal and Maryland state courts, and spent three years as the Executive Director of Common Cause Maryland advocating strong communities and good government. Kathleen first litigated housing fraud, flipping and predatory lending cases as an attorney with St. Ambrose Legal Services, and then directed the statewide Foreclosure Legal Assistance Project for Maryland Legal Aid Bureau, Inc., which included working with the Homeless Persons Representation Project. She began volunteering with HPRP’s veterans program in 2015.

**David M. Sonenshine** is a senior staff attorney with National Veterans Legal Services Program’s Lawyers Serving Warriors Project. He mentors and advises volunteer attorneys representing service members in the Disability Evaluation System and before the Board for Corrections of Military Records. Mr. Sonenshine’s practice also involves representing veterans and survivors before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Prior to joining NVLSP, Mr. Sonenshine served three years on active duty as an officer in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General Corps. As a judge advocate, he served as a military prosecutor and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Eastern District of Virginia. Mr. Sonenshine is a graduate of the University of Florida (B.A., with Honors, 1999) and the University of South Carolina School of Law (JD, 2004), and he is admitted to practice in South Carolina and the District of Columbia.

**Jackie R. Tillery** is Deputy Director, Army Review Boards Agency (ARBA). In concert with the Agency Director, he is responsible for the operations of thirteen Army personnel boards, including the Army Board for Correction of Military Records, the Army Discharge Review Board, the Army Special Review Boards, the Army Clemency and Parole Board, and the Army Grade Determination Review Board. He also oversees the Army’s Law Enforcement and Corrections missions. Prior to his current assignment, he served as Chief Officer, Accessions and Programs on the Secretary of the Air Force Manpower and Reserve Affairs (M&RA) Force Management Integration (MRM) Staff. Mr. Tillery is a Tuskegee University graduate and retired Air Force colonel. He began his federal civilian career in December 2006.

**Steven Wrobel** has been practicing law for 28 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 in Annapolis, Maryland, representing individuals accused of crimes, companies that need internal investigations to be conducted by outside counsel, and in civil business litigation. He has also represented many professionals and corporations before various licensing boards and in other administrative forums.

**Swapna Yeluri** is the director of pro bono programs with the Homeless Persons Representation Project. Prior to joining HPRP, Ms. Yeluri developed and ran a pro bono Veterans’ project and spent seven years of her legal career representing youth in the foster care system. Her entire professional and legal career has been focused on working with nonprofits and low-income clients. She is also the current chair-elect of the Veterans’ Affairs & Military Law Section of the Maryland State Bar Association. She received a JD from Roger Williams University School of Law in 2007 and a Bachelor of Arts in general business management from Michigan State University in 2003.

**Marla Zide** is a New England native, and came to Maryland in 1993 to attend Goucher College. Ms. Zide graduated from Goucher in 1997 with a BA majoring in psychology and a minor in women’s studies. Marla Zide is a 2001 graduate of the University of Baltimore School of Law where she concentrated in family law. Since being admitted to the Maryland Bar in December 2001, she has focused her practice in family law, opening her own law practice in September 2011. Marla Zide’s small boutique law practice is dedicated to advocating for clients in all aspects of family law from adoption to divorce. Ms. Zide has been recognized as a Top 100 Maryland Superlawyer for the past 4 years and a Top 50 Woman Maryland Superlawyer for the past 5 years.

**Andy Zipay** has been working as a case manager at Chase Brexton Health Care for over 10 years. He keeps a caseload of 85 to 95 clients, and his role is to eliminate as many barriers to care as possible for the clients. Chase Brexton is a “one stop shop” for many services such as primary medical care, including HIV case management, pharmacy, lab services, mental health, addictions, dental care, nutrition and more. Chase Brexton aims to be a healthcare provider where everyone feels comfortable, whether they are LGBT, recent-immigrant, HIV positive, or homeless, and no matter what their economic circumstances may be. Mr. Zipay has a bachelor’s degree in social work from UMBC.