

Military & Veterans' Law Seminar

SPEAKER BIOGRAPHIES

by order of presentation

Clyde Bennett Gore

*U.S. Army
Columbia, SC
(Course Planner)*

I officially joined the Army when I was a sophomore at Wofford College back in 1999, after taking several military science classes my freshman year. However, 9/11 occurred during my senior year, and it only galvanized me in my decision to join the military. I wanted to be able to contribute. Both my grandfathers served during World War II. Additionally, my father and uncle had both served during the Vietnam era.

After graduation, I was commissioned in the U.S. Army as a Second Lieutenant. I was accepted into the Educational Delay program, which allowed me to pursue a law degree and become an officer in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps.

I entered active duty as a JAG officer in January 2006. I stayed on active duty through August 2014 and was assigned to a wide variety of places including Fort Bliss, Texas; White Sands Missile Range, New Mexico; and Fort Polk, Louisiana (my wife's personal favorite). I also was deployed to Iraq for one year (July 2010 – July 2011).

I am still in the military and enjoying the opportunity to serve our state. When I left active duty, I joined the South Carolina Army National Guard and was assigned as the Command Judge Advocate for 59th Troop Command. In layman's terms, I am the lead attorney for 59th Troop Command. Our legal team there consists of two other attorneys and four paralegals. We handle all legal issues for the command in that unit, which includes all criminal law, administrative law, ethics and operational law issues that arise.

I enjoy spending time with my wife and our daughter. In particular, one of our favorite rituals is eating breakfast at Lizard's Thicket on Saturday mornings. Other than that, I am an avid sports fan, enjoy reading (history and politics), fishing, and being an active member of our church, Trenholm Road United Methodist Church in Columbia, SC.

Lt. Col John Cummings
South Carolina Army National Guard
Columbia, SC

LTC John Cummings currently serves as General Counsel for the South Carolina National Guard and has worked full-time for the South Carolina National Guard since 2014. During his military career, he has deployed five times, including deployments to Afghanistan, Iraq, Kuwait as well as a deployment to the Southwest Border in support of the United States Department of Homeland Security. Prior to his current position, he worked as a Public Defender and Assistant Solicitor in York, South Carolina. He has also worked as a patrolman for the Simpsonville Police Department and Mount Pleasant Police Department. He is a graduate of Mercer Law School and Auburn University.

Kenny Dojaquez
Carpenter Chartered
Columbia, SC

Kenny received a B.S. in Geography from United States Military Academy at West Point. Upon graduation, he served in the U.S. Army as an Armor and Cavalry Officer with service in around the world, to include two combat deployments to Iraq. After service, Kenny received a J.D. from University of South Carolina School of Law in 2011. Kenny has been engaged in the private practice of law in Columbia, South Carolina representing veterans and their family members since 2011.

He is admitted to the practice in the South Carolina Supreme Court; the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit; and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Mr. Dojaquez has served on the Military and Veterans Law Committee of the South Carolina Bar since 2011, and has been an active member of that state's bar. He has devoted his time and energy to ensuring veterans in South Carolina receive access to legal services before the VA as well as in state courts. Kenny was instrumental in advocating for the creation of the Veterans Law Clinic at the University of South Carolina School of Law, and had served as an adjunct instructor from its creation in 2018 until 2021. He has served as the Interim Director of the clinic.

Kenny speaks regularly at the state and national level on Veterans Disability issues and is a frequent presenter for the South Carolina Bar and National Organization of Veterans' Advocates (NOVA).

Lt. Col James Smith
South Carolina Army National Guard
Columbia, SC

No Bio Submitted

Ian M. Murphy
Fort Jackson Office of Staff Judge Advocate
Columbia, SC

No Bio Submitted