

Panel 1: Veterans in the Court System and the Need for Veteran Treatment Courts

Moderator: Dean Jim Rosenblatt



Dean Emeritus Jim Rosenblatt joined Mississippi College School of Law in 2003 following 30 years of distinguished service with the U.S. Army. A native of Natchez, Dean Rosenblatt is a cum laude graduate of Vanderbilt University who earned his law degree at Cornell University in Ithaca, New York. At Cornell, he was active in moot court and was commissioned in the Army following completion of the ROTC program. Currently, Dean Rosenblatt is a professor at MC Law.

Panelist: Judge Kelly Mims of Tupelo, Mississippi



Judge Kelly Mims retired from the Army National Guard in 2022 after thirty-four years of service. Judge Mims received a degree in marketing from Mississippi State University prior to obtaining his Juris Doctorate from the University of Mississippi School of Law. He served as a Public Defender in Lee County and as a Municipal Court Judge in Plantersville, Mississippi for fifteen years. In 2019, he was elected as Circuit Court Judge in the First Circuit Court District of Mississippi. For the last several years, Judge Mims has presided over Veterans Court in Tupelo which allows veterans charged with non-violent felonies to complete a four-phase program to have the charge wiped from their record.

Panelist: Judge William Witham Jr. of Dover, Delaware



Judge William Witham Jr. served as an Associate Judge of the Superior Court of Delaware, in February of 1999, before being appointed as the Kent County Resident Judge in January of 2005, where he served until retiring in May of 2021. During his service as a Superior Court Judge, Judge Witham oversaw the implementation of the State of Delaware's Veterans Court, and since its inception in 2011, has been the Veterans Court Judge. Before joining the Superior Court, Judge Witham was a partner with Prickett, Jones, Elliott & Kristol in Dover, Delaware and served in the Delaware National Guard. Prior to practicing law, he received his B.A. from the University of Delaware, his J.D. from the University of Maryland, and graduated from the United States Army War College.

Panelist: Lucy Davenport



Lucy Davenport has been the Drug Court Coordinator for Forrest and Perry Counties in Mississippi since it originated October 8, 2003. She received a Bachelor of Science degree in Psychology with a minor in Criminal Justice from the University of Southern Mississippi and is currently working on her Master of Criminal Justice. Ms. Davenport has a thirty-year background in alcohol and drug addiction studies. From 2018-2021, she served as president of the Mississippi Association of Drug Court Professionals and served as president from 2018-2021.

Panel 2: The Veteran Administration's Role in Veteran Mental and Physical Health

Moderator: Dexter Brookins

Dexter Brookins is a native of Jackson, Mississippi. After finishing high school, he enlisted in the U.S. Army as a Private, into the Infantry. In 1992, he attended Jackson State University, where received his Bachelor of Social Work from Jackson State University.

He earned his master's in Policy Administration from Georgetown University in 2005, and a Doctorate in Higher Education from Jackson State University, in 2019. Mr. Brookins completed 32 years (four years in the Mississippi Army National Guard and 28 years on Active Duty) of service in the U.S. Army as a Combat Veteran, retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel. Currently, he is the Chief Administrative Officer for MINACT, Inc. where he has direct supervision over Human Resources and Communications.

Panelist: Mississippi Court of Appeals Presiding Judge Virginia Carlton from Jackson, Mississippi



Judge Virginia Carlton began her legal career clerking for Justice Joel Bass of the Mississippi Supreme Court after attending the University of Mississippi for both her undergraduate and law school education. After her clerkship, Judge Carlton joined the U.S. Army JAG Corps where she served as a prosecutor, defense counsel, judge advocate, and Special Assistant U.S. Attorney for the Army. She later served as a military trial judge in the U.S. Army Reserves and then as an associate appellate judge in the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals. When Judge Carlton left active duty in the JAG Corps she became the Marion County public defender, served as an assistant district attorney in the 15th Circuit district, and was elected as a state representative. Judge Carlton retired from the military in February of 2015 after achieving the rank of Colonel and being awarded numerous service and achievement awards and medals. She currently serves on the Mississippi Court of Appeals, and continues to actively contribute to the bench, bar, and community.

Panelist: Sharetta Young of Jackson, Mississippi



Sharetta Young is the Associate Chief of Staff for Mental Health Service March at the U.S Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Young received her Bachelor of Science in social work at Mississippi Valley State University before obtaining her Master of Science in Social work from Jackson State University in the year 2000. Ms. Young began her career in Greenville Mississippi, as a mental health therapist and case manager before moving on to serve as a social worker and lead therapist for multiple organizations. Since her transition to the Department of Veterans Affairs, Ms. Young has served as a social worker, the suicide prevention program coordinator, the outpatient program manager, the social work mental health supervisor, the Associate Chief of Staff for mental health. Ms. Young currently serves as the Chair of the Executive Leadership Team for Mental Health Services and the Mental Health Behavior Council.

Panelist: Ira Rushing



Ira Rushing is an attorney at Tully Rinckey, PLLC. His practice areas include military law, national security representation, veterans' benefits, and labor and employment. In addition to his legal experience, he is certified in process improvement methods and has extensive project management and leadership experience throughout over 17 years of service in both the US Marine Corps and Army National Guard. He graduated from East Carolina in 2013 where he received his Bachelor's degree in Quantitative Economics. Then in 2015, he graduated from Mississippi College School of Law where he served as Vice Chair on Moot Court. He also serves as a judge advocate in the Mississippi National Guard.

Panel 3: A Legislator's Ability to Affect Change in the Lives of Veterans

Moderator: Dean John Anderson



Dean John Anderson is the interim Dean & Henry Vaughn Watkins and Shelby Watkins Mcrae Professor of Law. Dean Anderson has been a professor at Mississippi College since July of 2010. He came to MC after leaving Washington D.C., where he served as a Securities Enforcement and Litigation Senior Associate at Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale & Dorr LLP. Before practicing law, Dean Anderson received his B.A. in Philosophy from the University of California at Berkeley, his M.A. and his PHD in philosophy from the University of Virginia, before obtaining his J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law. Dean Anderson has published three books, twenty-two articles, authored numerous blog posts, and participated in multiple presentations and panels. In addition to Dean Anderson's many Academic accolades, he served his country in the United States Marine Corps.

Panelist: Colonel Mark Majors of Arlington, Virginia



Colonel Mark Majors is the Chief of the Strategic Engagement Division, Office of the General Counsel at National Guard Bureau. He received his commission in 1998 as a Judge Advocate in the Alabama Army National Guard. After serving two years as Trial Counsel with the 31st Separate Armored Brigade in Tuscaloosa, he returned to Mississippi and soon transferred to the 155th Separate Armored Brigade, Tupelo. Colonel Majors received his JD from Mississippi College School of Law, and he is an LLM candidate in Air and Space Law with the University of Mississippi School of Law. He also holds an MA in Defense and Strategic Studies, with an emphasis in Homeland Security and Homeland Defense, from the Naval War College. He completed his undergraduate studies at Samford University in Birmingham, Alabama. Colonel Majors is admitted to practice law in state and federal courts for Mississippi, Alabama, the District of Columbia, and the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. He is also a founding member of the Veteran and Military Law Section of the Mississippi Bar.

Panelist: Dr. Evan Seamone of Gainesville, Florida



Dr. Evan Seamone is the General Counsel & Legal Manager at Trajector, a privately held company that advocates for the rights and benefits of underserved military members, veterans, and their families. Dr. Seamone is an academic researcher, writer, and subject matter expert in the field of veteran and military benefits. He has a number of degrees, including a bachelor's degree in sociology, a master's in both public policy and non-profit organizational management, a Juris Doctorate from the University of Iowa College of Law, and an LLM specializing in criminal law from the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School. Dr. Seamone previously served as a Capital Case Prosecutor, Defense Counsel, and Foreign Claims Commissioner for the United States Department of Defense. After that, he became the Professor and Director of Legal Writing at MC Law before transitioning to serve as a Clinic Attorney for the Veterans Law Clinic at Harvard Law School.

Panelist: Professor Frank Rosenblatt



Professor Frank Rosenblatt received his undergraduate degree from James Madison University, a J.D. from the University of Virginia School of Law, and an LLM from the Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School. After completing law school, Professor Rosenblatt served in the U.S. Army JAG Corps for twelve years as a prosecutor, legal advisor, and defense counsel. While in this role, he served as the lead military defense counsel for Sergeant Bowe Bergdahl in the most publicized court-martial in American history. He currently teaches constitutional law, international law and First Amendment, at Mississippi College School of Law. He also serves as a Court of Appeals judge for the Mississippi Army National Guard.