ST. THOMAS LAW JOURNAL
FALL SYMPOSIUM
AFTER THEIR SERVICE: THE INTERSECTION OF VETERANS AND THE LAW

NOVEMBER 10, 2023

School of Law
UNIVERSITY OF St.Thomas
AFTER THEIR SERVICE:  
THE INTERSECTION OF VETERANS AND THE LAW

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS SCHOOL OF LAW  
NOVEMBER 10, 2023

WELCOME
The University of St. Thomas Law Journal and the Holloran Center for Ethical Leadership in the Professions are pleased to welcome you to our Fall Symposium. We will explore opportunities to stand in solidarity with veterans who are impacted by the legal system.

We have curated an event designed to educate and inspire a variety of stakeholders, including students, lawyers, judges, professors, veteran service organizations, and community members who desire to support veterans. Our esteemed group of speakers include advocates, academics, mental health professionals, and veterans from around the country.

We are glad you have joined us for this unique commemoration of Veterans Day.

UNIVERSITY OF ST. THOMAS LAW JOURNAL
The University of St. Thomas Law Journal is the flagship law review of the University of St. Thomas School of Law. It seeks to embody the school’s unique mission by publishing high-quality legal scholarship that promotes ethical actions, the integration of faith and reason, and social justice. The Law Journal’s Latin subtitle, Fides et justitia, which translates into “faith and justice,” is a core foundation of our symposia and the works we publish. We promote meaningful exploration of current legal issues through symposia and allow for substantial collaboration between the law review, our faculty, and outside contributors. These symposia also give our law school community a chance to reflect on issues closely connected with the school’s mission and vision.
SYMPOSIUM AGENDA
Friday, November 10

8:15 a.m.    Breakfast Buffet

9:00 a.m.    Welcome Remarks
               • Marshall Kelner, Symposium Editor
               • Dean Joel Nichols, University of St. Thomas School of Law
               • Professor Hank Shea, U.S. Army Veteran, Vice-Chair of the Veterans Defense Project

9:15 a.m.    Panel 1 — “Exploring the Model Justice Act and the Veteran Treatment Courts”
               • Professor Julie Baldwin— American University
               • Professor Erika Brooke— University of Florida
               • Brock Hunter— U.S. Army veteran, Co-Founder of the Veterans Defense Project
               • Ryan Else— U.S. Army Veteran, Co-Founder of the Veterans Defense Project

10:15 a.m.   Break

10:45 a.m.   Panel 2— “Native American Veterans: Acknowledging Their Service, Addressing Their Needs, and Learning from Their Restorative Traditions”
               • Professor Hillary Wandler— University of Montana
               • Professor Kristine Huskey— The University of Arizona
               • Professor David Grenardo, moderator— University of St. Thomas School of Law

12:00 p.m.   Break

12:30 p.m.   Lunch and Keynote Address— “Law School Veterans Clinics: Helping Veterans, Training Students, Improving the System”
               • Professor Judy Clausen— US Army Veteran, University of Florida Levin College of Law
               • Professor Alex Scherr— University of Georgia School of Law
SYMPOSIUM AGENDA
Friday, November 10

1:45 p.m.  Break

2:00 p.m.  Panel 3 — “Confronting the Prevalence of PTSD and Other Invisible Injuries in Returning Veterans and Searching for Restorative Remedies”
- Professor Holly Christian— University of Detroit Mercy School of Law
- Hector Matascastillo— US Army Veteran, Mental Health Professional, Crisis Negotiator

2:45 p.m.  Concluding Remarks
- Marshall Kelner, Symposium Editor
- Professor Hank Shea, US Army Veteran, Vice-Chair of the Veterans Defense Project
JULIE MARIE BALDWIN

Julie Marie Baldwin, PhD, is a research professor in the Department of Justice, Law & Criminology at American University. She specializes in translational and evaluation research with a focus on treatment courts, behavioral and mental health, and subcultures including the military, law enforcement, and gangs. Dr. Baldwin serves as a research partner and consultant for a variety of courts, agencies, and organizations, fostering strong researcher-practitioner partnerships, and she is a nationally recognized expert on veterans treatment courts (VTCs), working with programs since 2010.

Dr. Baldwin has obtained more than $55 million in external funding for her collaborative projects, with more than $20 million dedicated to her VTC work. Her research has been funded by the National Institute of Justice (NIJ), Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), National Institute of Corrections, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and National Science Foundation, as well as a variety of state and local entities. In addition to a variety of externally funded, single-site and statewide collaborations, Dr. Baldwin is currently the Principal Investigator (PI) of the NIJ’s Multisite Impact and Cost-Efficiency Evaluation of Veterans Treatment Courts and BJA’s Veterans Treatment Court Risk and Need Enhancement Initiative (VTC Risk and Need Assessment Project), was the PI of the NIJ’s Multisite VTC Process Evaluation, and conducted the first comprehensive national survey of VTCs.
ERIKA J. BROOKE

Erika J. Brooke, Ph.D., is an Associate Instructional Professor in Criminology in the Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law at the University of Florida. Her research interests are focused on unraveling the complexities of the courts-to-corrections pipeline with special emphasis on the intricate relationship between military service and criminal justice contact, the dynamics of specialty courts, and the impact of diversionary programs within the justice system. Some of her recent work has been published in *Crime & Delinquency, Journal of Offender Rehabilitation, Policing: An International Journal, and Corrections: Policy, Practice, and Research.*

In her role as the Military Criminology Section Editor for the *International Journal of Offender Therapy and Comparative Criminology,* Dr. Brooke aims to actively curate and guide scholarly conversations within this specialized field. She also serves as a program evaluator and consultant on numerous projects funded by the Bureau of Justice Assistance, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and National Institute of Justice. In these roles, she assesses the effectiveness of a wide range of juvenile and criminal justice diversion programs, which encompass drug courts, veterans courts, and mental health courts, as well as initiatives focused on diverting individuals from the criminal justice system and facilitating their successful reentry into the community.

Dr. Brooke also balances her academic profession along with a career in the U.S. Army Reserve that, to date, has spanned over 16 years. In the course of her military journey, she has served in variety of roles across the junior enlisted, Non-Commissioned Officer, and Commissioned Officer ranks, and has completed multiple deployments. In 2022, Dr. Brooke received the Army Outstanding Junior Officer of the Year Award from The Reserve Organization of America. At present, she serves as a Military Government Specialist in the Civil Affairs Corps, where she is dedicated to leveraging her dual expertise in both civilian and military domains.
BROCK HUNTER

Brock Hunter is a criminal defense lawyer, based in Minneapolis, Minnesota, who has served as the President and Legislative Chair of the Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. Brock is also a former Army scout and is nationally recognized for his work on behalf of troubled veterans in the criminal justice system. He drafted and led passage of Minnesota’s pioneering veterans’ sentencing legislation, which has since been cited by the U.S. Supreme Court in its landmark case, *Porter v. McCollum*.

Brock currently serves on the boards of directors of All Rise and Justice for Vets, the national organization for Veterans Treatment Courts. Brock is also the co-founder of the Veterans Defense Project, a public policy advocacy and education non-profit, and co-editor and co-author of the legal treatise, *The Attorney’s Guide to Defending Veterans in Criminal Court*. Brock and VDP co-founder, Ryan Else, are currently serving as advisors to the Veterans Justice Commission and, in those roles, helped to craft model legislation, the Veterans Justice Act.
RYAN ELSE

Ryan Else is a criminal defense attorney, policy advocate, and veteran. Ryan served in the Army National Guard as an infantryman reaching the rank of Sergeant. He was deployed to Kosovo in 2003 and 2004. Ryan went on to graduate summa cum laude from American University in Washington D.C. with a B.S. in International Relations. In May 2011, he graduated from the University of St. Thomas School of Law, where he served as President of the Military Law Society.

Along with Brock Hunter, Ryan was co-author and co-editor of *The Attorneys Guide to Defending Veterans in Criminal Court* and co-founder of the Veterans Defense Project. Together, Else and Hunter worked to pass the Veterans Restorative Justice Act in 2021. Ryan also served as Legislative Chair for the Minnesota Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers for seven years, managing their legislative agenda on issues from civil asset forfeiture to probation and sentencing reform. Ryan served as an adviser to the Veterans Justice Commission within the Council on Criminal Justice. Launched in August 2022, the Commission is assessing the risk factors that drive veterans’ justice-system involvement, the adequacy of transitional assistance for military service members as they reenter civilian life, and the effectiveness of the justice system response when veterans break the law.
HILLARY WANDLER

Professor Hillary Wandler works full-time at the School of Law on the University of Montana campus in Missoula. She teaches courses in legal research and writing and veterans disability law, and she is Director of the School of Law's in-house Veterans Advocacy Clinic. She currently serves as Co-Director of the Clinical Law Program and Director of the Legal Research and Writing Program.

Professor Wandler is admitted to practice in Montana state and federal courts, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the United States Supreme Court. She is accredited to practice before the Department of Veterans Affairs. Professor Wandler joined the School of Law faculty in 2008 after clerking for Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals Judge James R. Browning, clerking for U.S. District Court Judge Donald W. Molloy, and practicing law with Garlington, Lohn & Robinson in Missoula, Montana. She continues to represent veterans in disability claims and appeals, collaborating with students in the Veterans Advocacy Clinic.
KRISTINE HUSKEY

Kristine Huskey is a Clinical Professor of Law and the Director of the Veterans Advocacy Law Clinic at the University of Arizona James E. Rogers College of Law, where she also teaches Constitutional Law, International Human Rights Law, and The Law of Armed Conflict. She is also the Director of the College of Law’s Clinical Program, which is home to 17 clinics. Huskey has taught at Georgetown Law Center, American University, and the University of Texas, among other law schools. She was a litigator with Shearman & Sterling in Washington D.C. for several years and has appeared before the U.S. Supreme Court, representing Guantanamo detainees in Rasul and Boumediene. Huskey and her clinic students recently filed an amicus brief with the Supreme Court in support of a veteran who had been denied reimbursement by the VA for emergency health care abroad.

Huskey currently researches and writes on issues involving Veterans Treatment Courts, Tribal Healing to Wellness Courts, and Restorative Justice. Her article, “The Case for Tribal Veterans Healing to Wellness Courts,” was recently published in the University of Missouri-Kansas City Law Review and addresses Native American veterans and the intersection of Veterans Treatment Courts and Tribal Wellness Courts. In 2020, she received the Arizona Veterans Hall of Fame’s Copper Sword Award, which is the highest honor given to a civilian for their efforts to support veterans. Huskey’s father is a Vietnam Veteran, and her mother served in the Army Nurse Corps. Both of her grandfathers served during World War II.
JUDY CLAUSEN

Professor Judy Clausen serves as Legal Skills Professor and Supervising Attorney for the Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Clinic at the University of Florida Levin College of Law. In the clinic, she teaches and supervises students who assist in representing veterans in appeals to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the Board of Veterans’ Appeals. Students also submit amicus briefs before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit and U.S. Supreme Court on behalf of the National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium, as well as in discharge upgrades and Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) character of discharge determinations and initial claims. She is the president of the board of the National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium and is cochair of its Policy Advocacy Committee.

Judy began her legal career active-duty Army in the Pentagon, where she served in the Honors Program as an Assistant to the General Counsel of the Department of the Army. In law school, she served as a judicial intern for Judge Susan Crawford of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.
ALEX SCHERR

Alex Scherr is the founding director of the University of Georgia School of Law Veterans Legal Clinic. Scherr joined the law faculty in 1996 as its first Director of Civil Clinics and has helped to build the law school’s clinical programs from three to its current roster of 17 clinics and externships. He served from 2016 to 2018 as Associate Dean for Clinical Programs and Experiential Learning; and in 2018, he became the founding director of the Veterans Legal Clinic.

Professor Scherr also teaches Evidence and Mental Health Law and has written on evidence, mental health, and clinical pedagogy. He edited and coauthored LEARNING FROM PRACTICE, the leading text for externship and experiential courses; and he serves on the editorial board of The Clinical Law Review. He has served as President of the Clinical Legal Education Association and on the Board of the Clinical Section of Association of American Law Schools. In 2018, he received the William Pincus Award from the AALS Clinical Section, which recognizes “outstanding contributions to the cause of clinical legal education.”

Scherr earned his B.A. from Yale University (1975) and his J.D. from the University of Michigan (1982). Before his current work in Georgia, he spent two years in private tax practice and 11 years as a poverty lawyer with Vermont Legal Aid, including as director of the Mental Health Law Project. He has practiced in state and federal appellate courts, handling both individual and class action lawsuits, as well as legislative and administrative advocacy. Scherr has also served as a mediator and mediation trainer in family, small claims, and community disputes.
HOLLY CHRISTIAN

Holly Christian joined the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law in 2021 as the first Toni A. Wisne Foundation Veterans Clinic Fellow. She was promoted to Director of the Veterans Law Clinic and Assistant Professor of Law in 2022. She is currently VA accredited, barred in both Illinois and Michigan, as well as admitted to practice in front of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Holly has provided legal services to individuals and children with disabilities in contested special education and adult guardianship matters. She has also represented low-income and homeless veterans and provided pro bono program management, volunteer recruitment, and training while employed at the ABA and Swords to Plowshares. She has presented research, organized community legal clinics, conducted Know Your Rights presentations, and spoken at CLE events related to her practice areas.
HECTOR R. MATASCASTILLO
Hector R. Matascastillo, MSW, LICSW, was born in Guatemala City, Guatemala and was raised in Chicago, Illinois. When he was 17, he joined the Army and served in multiple countries for various operations over a span of 18 years. After his last deployment to Iraq in 2007 as a First Sergeant of an infantry company, Hector left the military and completed the Master of Social Work degree program at Augsburg College in 2010. He is formally trained in EMDR, DBT, and Healing of Memories protocol and principle-based interventions.

As a multilingual/multicultural therapist, Hector works with the first responder, Latino, Veteran, and seriously mentally ill populations from the micro to the macro level. He is currently in his own practice, consulting law enforcement and local government entities while serving on multiple community endeavors and boards of directors. Hector also serves as the mental health consultant and crisis negotiator to the South Metro SWAT Crisis Negotiation Team. He completed the FBI Citizen’s Academy and is a member of the FBI Citizen’s Academy of Minneapolis Alumni Association. Hector is currently a doctoral candidate and is towards the end of completing his Ph.D. in clinical psychology with a specialty in forensic psychology. He currently resides in St. Paul.