2014

National Conference on Law Clinics Serving Veterans: Conference Agenda, Panel Overview, and Panel Biographies

Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Veterans Benefits Clinic

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National Conference on Law Clinics Serving Veterans

April 3-4, 2014

Located at the law offices of McDermott Will & Emery
500 North Capitol Street N.W. Washington, DC. 20001

Hosted by: William & Mary Law School

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Thursday, April 3, 2014

8:00am    Continental Breakfast
8:40      Welcome from McDermott Will & Emery
8:50      Welcome from William & Mary
9:00      Panel 1: Legal Needs of Veterans
10:15     Break
10:30     Panel 1: Legal Needs of Veterans, continued
12:00pm   Lunch: Keynote by U.S. Senator Mark Warner (VA)
1:30      Panel 2: Psychological Needs of Veterans
2:45      Panel 3: Development of Programs for Veterans
4:00      Break
4:30pm    Reception in Russell SR- 485 (ends at 6:30pm)

Friday, April 4, 2014

10:30am   Panel 4: Collaborating with Other Professionals to Meet the Needs of Veterans
12:00pm   Lunch: Resources for Veterans & Clinics
1:00      CLE: Introduction to Veterans Benefits Law
3:00      Closing Remarks
Panel 1: Legal Needs of Veterans

A discussion of the legal needs of veterans and different clinic models that can be used to meet those needs.

**Moderator:** Professor Patricia E. Roberts, Esq., William & Mary Law School

**Panelists:**
- Professor Laurie F. Neff, Esq., George Mason University Law School
- Professor Susan Saidel, Esq., Widener University School of Law
- Professor Stacey-Rae Simcox, Esq., William & Mary Law School
- Yelena Duterte, Esq., The John Marshall Law School
- Professor Michael Wishnie, Esq., Yale Law School

Panel 2: Psychological Needs of Veterans

A review of the psychological needs of veterans.

**Moderator:** Professor Stacey-Rae Simcox, Esq., William & Mary Law School

**Panelists:**
- Dr. Leticia Flores, Ph.D., University of Tennessee Psychological Department
- Dr. Mary Beth Heller, Ph.D, LCP, NCSP, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Dr. Robyn Mehlenbeck, Ph.D., George Mason University Psychological Department

Panel 3: Development of Programs for Veterans

An overview of how to find institutional support, design your clinic, fundraise, and find clients for your clinic.

**Moderator:** Dean Davison M. Douglas, Dean, William & Mary Law School

**Panelists:**
- Professor Brian Clause, Esq., Executive Director, Veterans Legal Support Center & Clinic, John Marshall Law School
- Matthew A. Kapinos, Esq., McGuireWoods, Puller Clinic Advisory Board Member
- Joelle E. K. Laszlo, Esq., Reed Smith
- David H. Myers, Esq., Pro Bono Consortium
- Professor Patricia E. Roberts, Esq., William & Mary Law School
Panel Overview

Panel 4: Collaborating with Other Professionals

A discussion of interprofessional collaboration, veterans courts, and Medical-Legal Partnerships supporting veterans.

Moderator: Dr. Leticia Flores, Ph.D., University of Tennessee Psychological Department

Panelists:
- John Paul Cimino, Esq., Director of HMVHE, William & Mary Law School and Equal Justice Works Fellow, Sponsored by Northup Grumman and Covington & Burling LLP.
- Dr. Mary Beth Heller, Ph.D., LCP, NCSP, Virginia Commonwealth University
- Professor Daniel Kunz, Esq., MBA, Duquesne University
- Margaret M. Middleton, Esq., Executive Director, Connecticut Veterans Legal Center

CLE: Introduction to Veterans Benefits Law

A two credit CLE giving an introduction to the law used in basic Veterans Benefits cases.

Instructors:
- Professor Stacey-Rae Simcox, Esq, William & Mary Law School
- John Paul Cimino, Esq., Director of HMVHE, William & Mary Law School and Equal Justice Works Fellow, Sponsored by Northup Grumman and Covington & Burling LLP.

William & Mary students visiting Senator Mark Warner (D-VA) at the Russell Senate Office Building – Fall 2013. Also pictured: Professor Simcox, Professor Neff, Dr. Heller, and John Paul Cimino.
John Paul Cimino was appointed the first Clinical Fellow and Director of the “Helping Military Veterans Through Higher Education” (HMVHE) consortium in August of 2012. John Paul is a veteran of the US Army and has worked with the Puller Clinic in numerous capacities over the past few years, including as a graduate research fellow, a summer employee of the Clinic, and as a student in the Puller Clinic. John Paul’s work as a mental health specialist before law school gives him an expertise in working with clients suffering from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and/or Traumatic Brain Injuries. John Paul is an Equal Justice Works Fellow sponsored by Northup Grumman and Covington & Burling, LLC.

Brian Clauss is the Director of the Veterans Legal Support Center at the John Marshall Law School in Chicago – a pro bono legal clinic that provides assistance to veterans in VA benefit appeals and other matters involving military service and civilian law. He is a graduate of Lake Forest College and the John Marshall Law School, and was an Assistant State’s Attorney in Chicago, prior to starting an alternative dispute resolution practice.

He began his legal career as a felony prosecutor in Chicago and later defended Cook County, Illinois, in labor and employment matters before beginning a practice as an arbitrator and mediator in 2004. As a full-time neutral, he serves on various arbitration and mediation rosters and panels.

Executive Director Clauss is a frequent author and lecturer on labor and employment matters, and regularly speaks on the local, state, national and international levels. He is a member of the National Faculty Group for LexisNexis. In addition to his other volunteer activities, Clauss is a member of the Board of Directors of the Labor and Employment Relations Association (Chicago Chapter) and volunteers with several other organizations.
Yelena Duterte, Esq., Staff Attorney, Veterans Legal Support Center & Clinic, The John Marshall Law School

Yelena Duterte joined the staff of The John Marshall Law School Veterans Legal Support Center & Clinic (VLSC) in March 2012 as a Staff Attorney. Duterte became associated with the VLSC as a clinical intern in January 2010. Duterte’s interest in veteran advocacy stems from her father’s experience in Vietnam in 1970.

Duterte is a 2007 graduate from University Illinois at Chicago where she earned a bachelor’s degree in Economics and Political Science. She graduated from The John Marshall Law School in January 2012.

At the VLSC, Ms. Duterte assists with the academic research that supports the VLSC staff, students and Pro Bono Network as well as initiates new projects for the VLSC to address. She also works with pro bono attorneys on proceeding with claims through the United States Department of Veterans Affairs and initiates new projects for the VLSC to address. She is a trained member of the VLSC Pro Bono Network and lectures on representing veterans in obtaining disability benefits.

Dr. Leticia Flores, Ph.D., Associate Director of UT Psychological Clinic, University of Tennessee

Dr. Leticia Flores is currently the Associate Director for the University of Tennessee’s Psychological Clinic. From 2007 to 2013, she served as Director for Virginia Commonwealth University’s (VCU) Center for Psychological Services and Development (CPSD). While at the CPSD, she worked with William & Mary to develop the first psychology and law collaborative clinic, now known as the Lewis B Puller, Jr veterans benefits clinic. Dr. Flores is licensed in both Virginia and Tennessee as a clinical psychologist. Dr. Flores periodically conducts records reviews for the Puller Clinic as well as for National Veterans Legal Services. She is the daughter of Guadalupe R. Flores, a Vietnam war veteran who served with the 82nd and 101st Airborne divisions. He was an Army Airborne Ranger, and earned two Purple Hearts during his two tours of duty.
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Panel Biographies

Dr. Mary Beth Heller, Ph.D., LCP, NCSP, Interim Director of CPSD, Virginia Commonwealth University

Dr. Beth Heller is a licensed clinical psychologist in the Commonwealth of Virginia and a nationally certified school psychologist. She completed her school psychology training at James Madison University in 1988 and earned her Ph.D. in clinical psychology from the University of Virginia in 2005. She worked in public school, community mental health, residential, and private practice settings prior to accepting a faculty position at Virginia Commonwealth University.

Dr. Heller has extensive experience in psychological assessment and in psychodynamic and cognitive-behavioral therapies across a broad range of ages and diagnostic presentations. In her role as Acting Director of the Center for Psychological Services and Development at VCU, Dr. Heller provides oversight and supervision of doctoral-level clinical and counseling psychology students. She coordinates VCU’s partnership with the Lewis B. Puller, Jr. Veterans Benefits Clinic at William & Mary Law School, providing clinical supervision for veterans’ psychological evaluations. Dr. Heller also maintains a small private practice.

Matthew A. Kapinos, Esq., Associate Attorney, McGuireWoods

Matthew A. Kapinos focuses on assisting clients in all phases of drafting and negotiating agreements for energy infrastructure and public construction projects and the sale and purchase of companies. His experience includes preparing documents for inclusion in RFPs and auctions, assisting in bid analysis, and negotiating with successful bidders.

Prior to joining McGuireWoods, Matt spent five years on active duty as an infantry officer in the U.S. Army with the 82nd Airborne Division and the 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment (The Old Guard). His service included combat deployments to Iraq and Afghanistan.

Matt serves as the co-chair of the Virginia Bar Associations’ Veterans Task Force and helps to lead the firm’s veterans pro bono outreach. He also serves on the Advisory Board for the Puller Clinic.
Joelle E. K. Laszlo is a member of the Global Regulatory Enforcement Group in the Washington, D.C. office of Reed Smith. Joelle’s practice primarily involves assisting clients with issues related to federal and state contracts and grants. In addition, Joelle advises domestic and international clients on U.S. export controls, trade sanctions, and economic embargoes enforced by the U.S. Department of Commerce, the U.S. Department of State, and the U.S. Department of the Treasury. Joelle also provides support to trade associations on a variety of matters, including the development and interpretation of bylaws, leadership and management nomination and succession, and advisory committee roles and responsibilities.

Finally, Joelle has assisted clients in complying with U.S. campaign finance and lobbying laws, preparing for and responding to False Claims Act investigations and prosecution, and requesting the review of Department of Commerce antidumping duty regulations. As a result of her Puller Clinic experiences while a student at William & Mary Law, Joelle was instrumental in leading her firm’s efforts in representing veterans with claims of PTSD, working in partnership with National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP).

Daniel W. Kunz is the director of the Duquesne University School of Law Veterans Court Clinic. He received his Bachelor of Science in Management from Saint Vincent College. He completed his Masters of Business Administration at Duquesne University’s John F. Donahue Graduate School of Business and his Juris Doctor Degree from Duquesne University School of Law. Dan is currently practicing law in his private practice in Pittsburgh.

Dan is a Certified Contract Advisor for the National Football League Player’s Association. Dan sits on numerous boards and committees throughout Western Pennsylvania including The Foundation of Hope, Vincentian Charitable Foundation, where he serves as Vice-Chair, Rivers Club, Allegheny County Bar Association’s Sports Law Committee, Allegheny County Bar Association’s Military and Veterans Affairs Committee, Saint Vincent College’s Alumni Association and Law Society.

Dan was the recipient of the 2013 Saint Vincent College’s Young Alumni of Distinction Award. The award is made by the Saint Vincent Alumni Association in recognition of meritorious service and commitment to Saint Vincent.

Joelle E.K. Laszlo, Esq., Associate, Reed Smith
Margaret M. Middleton is a Clinical Visiting Lecturer in Law at Yale Law School. She also serves as Executive Director of The Connecticut Veterans Legal Center in New Haven, a nonprofit she founded that provides free legal services to low-income military veterans and educates the public on important issues facing the veterans’ community. Previously, she was a Fellow at David Rosen and Associates in New Haven and a law clerk to The Honorable Janet C. Hall of the U.S. District Court in Bridgeport, CT. She is a graduate of Cornell University and the New York University School of Law.

Dr. Robyn Mehlenbeck is a Clinical Associate Professor at George Mason University (GMU) and the Director of the GMU Center for Psychological Services, a clinic committed to training graduate students and providing services for the community.

Prior to coming to GMU, she was a Clinical Associate Professor at the Warren Alpert Medical School of Brown University and worked at the Hasbro Children’s Partial Hospital Program. She has trained medical students, psychology interns and fellows, pediatric and psychiatry residents and fellows, and developmental behavioral pediatricians.

Dr. Mehlenbeck has several publications and has presented nationally and internationally in the areas of pediatric obesity and eating disorders. She is currently on the Board of the Society for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics (SDBP), as well as on the Program, Education and Membership Committees for SDBP. She is also on the American Academy of Pediatrics CME Planning Group for DB:PREP (Board review course for Developmental and Behavioral Pediatrics. Mehlenbeck is also a reviewer panel member and mentor reviewer for the Journal of Pediatric Psychology.

Margaret M. Middleton, Esq., Executive Director, Connecticut Veterans Legal Center

Margaret M. Middleton is a Clinical Visiting Lecturer in Law at Yale Law School. She also serves as Executive Director of The Connecticut Veterans Legal Center in New Haven, a nonprofit she founded that provides free legal services to low-income military veterans and educates the public on important issues facing the veterans’ community. Previously, she was a Fellow at David Rosen and Associates in New Haven and a law clerk to The Honorable Janet C. Hall of the U.S. District Court in Bridgeport, CT. She is a graduate of Cornell University and the New York University School of Law.
David H. Myers, Esq., Director of Case Evaluation and Placement Components, the Pro Bono Consortium

CDR Dave Myers, JAGC, USN, (Ret) retired from the U.S. Navy in May 2000 after 28 years enlisted and commissioned service, including 24 years as a Navy judge advocate. Upon retirement he joined the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program, Case Evaluation & Placement Component as Deputy Director for Case Evaluation and assumed duties as Director in July of 2012. In this position he oversees the review of requests for volunteer pro bono attorneys to assist veterans with appeals pending at the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and assignment of those attorneys to appellants. He has also served as the Program’s lead for the Program’s interaction with law school clinics throughout the country.

During his career, CDR Myers served as the Director, Special Programs Division, (OJAG); Deputy Director, Appellate Government Division, Navy-Marine Appellate Review Activity; Deputy Director, Criminal Law Division (OJAG); amongst many other positions. During the tours at the Criminal Law Division and the Bureau of Naval Personnel he was deeply involved in personnel law issues and sat as voting member of the Clemency and Parole Board during the former assignment. He acquired experience with the Navy’s Physical Evaluation and Disability system while assigned to Naval Legal Service Office, Great Lakes, Illinois. He earned several personal decorations, including four Meritorious Service Medals.

Professor Laurie F. Neff, Esq., Director, Clinic for Legal Assistance to Servicemembers, George Mason University

Professor Laurie Forbes Neff is a cum laude graduate of Pepperdine University School of Law, where she was lead articles editor for the Pepperdine Law Review. She also holds a B.S. in Mass Communications from Towson University.

Before becoming director of the Clinic for Legal Assistance to Servicemembers (CLASV), Neff was the Senior Assistant Director, Career Services, for the George Mason School of Law. Prior to that, she practiced in the commercial litigation group at McGuireWoods, LLP in Tysons Corner and the litigation and family law sections of Wolcott Rivers Gates in Virginia Beach. Upon graduation from law school, Neff served as a law clerk to the Honorable John C. Morrison and the Honorable Joseph A. Leafe in the Fourth Judicial Circuit, Norfolk, Virginia. She is a member of the Virginia Bar.
Professor Patricia E. Roberts, Esq., Director, Clinical Programs, William & Mary Law School

Professor Roberts is responsible for managing nine clinics at the law school, five of which are in-house clinics started under her leadership. She directs the Special Education Advocacy Clinic and is founder and director of William & Mary’s Institute of Special Education Advocacy. She is a member of the Association of American Law Schools (AALS) Clinical Committee and Chair of the AALS Clinical Section’s Interdisciplinary Committee. Professor Roberts will be assuming leadership of the Puller Clinic in June 2014.

Roberts is a graduate of Randolph-Macon Woman’s College and William & Mary Law School; she practiced law as a sole practitioner and later as managing partner of a civil practice law firm. In 1997, she began teaching in William & Mary’s Legal Skills Program; prior to her appointment to the faculty in 2008, she served in numerous administrative roles at the law school, including Associate Dean for Academic Programs. In 2004, she received the John Marshall Award in recognition of exceptional service to the law school.

Professor Susan Saidel, Esq., Clinic Director, Widener Veterans Law Clinic, Widener Law School

Susan W. Saidel is the director of the Veterans Law Clinic at Widener Law School. She has also worked for Disability Rights New Jersey, a New Jersey based public interest law firm that represents physically and mentally disabled individuals, and South Jersey Regional Legal Services representing low income clients in consumer matters. She received her J.D. from Widener University School of Law and her B.A. from the Pennsylvania State University.
Michael J. Wishnie is Deputy Dean for Experiential Education, the William O. Douglas Clinical Professor of Law, and Director of the Jerome N. Frank Legal Services Organization at Yale Law School. For years, Professor Wishnie and his students have represented low-wage workers, immigrants, and veterans in federal, state, and administrative litigation as well as unions, churches, veterans’ groups, and grassroots organizations in a range of legislative, media, and community education matters.

From 1998-2006, Professor Wishnie taught at New York University School of Law. Previously, he worked at the American Civil Liberties Union Immigrants’ Rights Project as a Skadden Fellow, as a law clerk to Judge H. Lee Sarokin of the District Court of New Jersey and U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit; and as a clerk for Justice Harry A. Blackmun, retired, working in the chambers of Associate Justice Stephen G. Breyer of the Supreme Court of the United States. He is also a Non-Resident Fellow of the Migration Policy Institute and frequently handles litigation matters as a cooperating attorney for the American Civil Liberties Union.
Important Addresses & Information

Important Addresses

The Conference Location
McDermott Will & Emery
The McDermott Building
500 North Capitol Street Northwest, Washington, D.C., 20001

The Russell Senate Office Building (April 3 Reception Location)
2 Constitution Ave NE, Washington, DC (Room 485)
Special Note: All guests should enter the Russell Building at the Delaware and C Street NE entrance. There will be light security (metal detectors). Taking Pictures or filming is NOT permitted.

Fairfield Inn & Suites Washington, DC
500 H Street Northwest, Washington, DC 20001

Union Station
50 Massachusetts Avenue Northeast, Washington, D.C., 20002

Survey & Questions

- Please fill out the survey about your experience. It should be in your inbox no later than April 11, 2014.
- If you have questions during the conference, please e-mail Diana Cooper at: djcooper@wm.edu
- If you have any questions or comments after the conference, please send them to Professor Patricia E. Roberts at: perobe@wm.edu.
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