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Fifth Annual Chief Justice Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture: Veterans in the Judiciary

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Golden Gate law



OCTOBER 17, 2013

FIFTH ANNUAL

CHIEF JUSTICE RONALD M. GEORGE

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

VETERANS IN THE JUDICIARY

FEATURING ASSOCIATE JUSTICE

MING W. CHIN

SUPREME COURT OF CALIFORNIA

AND OCTOBER 18, 2013

FIRST ANNUAL

VETERANS LAW CONFERENCE

PRESENTED BY THE LAW STUDENTS VETERANS COALITION
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY

School of Law

The Annual Chief Justice

Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture,

named after legendary former Chief Justice of California Ronald M. George, shines a spotlight on the vital role of the courts by bringing together judicial leaders to share their perspectives on critical issues facing the judiciary.

Program

OCTOBER 17, 2013

■ WELCOME

Rachel Van Cleave, Dean
Golden Gate University School of Law

John Fyfe, on behalf of President Dan Angel
Golden Gate University

■ LECTURE

INTRODUCTION

Associate Justice Carol A. Corrigan
Supreme Court of California

LECTURE

Associate Justice Ming W. Chin
Supreme Court of California
Former Captain, U.S. Army, including
a year in Vietnam
Army Commendation Medal and
Bronze Star Recipient

■ PANEL

INTRODUCTION

Rachel Van Cleave, Dean

MODERATOR

Gordon Erspamer, Partner (Ret.)
Morrison & Foerster LLP, Veterans Advocate

PANELISTS

Associate Justice Ming W. Chin
Judge James E. McFetridge
Superior Court of California, County of Sacramento
Lt., U.S. Navy JAG Corps (Ret.)
Judge and Trial Advocacy Supervisor,
California Army National Guard
District Judge Henry T. Wingate
United States District Court
Southern District of Mississippi
Former Lt., U.S. Navy JAG Corps

■ CLOSING REMARKS

Rachel Van Cleave, Dean

Reception to follow

Chief Justice Ronald M. George
Distinguished Lecturer

Associate Justice Ming W. Chin

Supreme Court of California
Former Captain, U.S. Army,
including a year in Vietnam
Army Commendation Medal and
Bronze Star Recipient



The Honorable Ming W. Chin was appointed to the California Supreme Court in March 1996. Before he was named to the high court, Justice Chin served from 1990 to 1996 on the First District Court of Appeal, Division Three, San Francisco. Prior to his appointment to the Court of Appeal, Justice Chin served on the bench of the Alameda County Superior Court. Previously, he was a partner in an Oakland law firm specializing in business and commercial litigation. He also served as a prosecutor in the Alameda County District Attorney's office.

Justice Chin earned his bachelor's degree in political science and his J.D. from the University of San Francisco. After his graduation from law school, Justice Chin served two years as a Captain in the United States Army, including a year in Vietnam, where he was awarded the Army Commendation Medal and the Bronze Star.

Justice Chin has chaired the California Judicial Council's Commission for Impartial Courts, Court Technology Advisory Committee, and Science and the Law Steering Committee. He frequently lectures on DNA, genetics and the courts. Justice Chin served as Chair of the Judicial Council's Science and the Law Steering Committee. The Judicial Council named him California Jurist of the Year for 2009. He is an author of two California Practice Guides: *Employment Litigation* (The Rutter Group 2012) and *Forensic DNA Evidence: Science and the Law* (The Rutter Group 2012).



Gordon Erspamer

Partner (Ret.), Morrison & Foerster LLP
Veterans Advocate

Mr. Erspamer was a Senior Counsel of Morrison & Foerster LLP in the San Francisco office until his retirement in 2012. Prior to retirement he was Co-Chair of Morrison & Foerster's Inter-Disciplinary Energy Group and engaged in the litigation of complex civil actions in both state and federal courts. Mr. Erspamer has been lead trial counsel in many jury trials, bench trials, and arbitrations. His litigation experience includes the Superior Courts located throughout California, the United States District Courts, and the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals. Mr. Erspamer is admitted to practice before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Gordon Erspamer received his B.A. degree *summa cum laude* from Hamline University in 1975 and his J.D. *magna cum laude* from the University of Michigan in 1978. He was an Associate Editor of the Michigan Law Review from 1976-77 and a Note Editor from 1977-78, and a member of the Order of the Coif. He joined Morrison & Foerster in 1982 and became a partner in 1984.

Since 1980, Mr. Erspamer carried on an active *pro bono* practice of representing disabled veterans and veterans' groups. From 2005 to 2011, Mr. Erspamer served as a member of the Board of Directors of Swords to Plowshares, a leading non-profit organization providing housing, employment and job training, and advocacy services for veterans.

From 2005-2007, Mr. Erspamer was a member of the Board of Directors of the Contra Costa County Bar Association, where he served on the *Pro Bono* Committee and as Chair of the Judicial Evaluations Committee.

He has been honored by several organizations for his exemplary advocacy on behalf of veterans. Among the many organizations who have recognized Mr. Erspamer for his work on behalf of veterans are: the American Bar Association, Vietnam Veterans of America, the National Association of Radiation Survivors, Swords to Plowshares, the Contra Costa Bar Association, and *California Lawyer* and *American Lawyer* magazines.

Judge James E. McFetridge

Superior Court of California,
County of Sacramento
Lt., U.S. Navy JAG Corps (Ret.),
Judge and Trial Advocacy Supervisor,
California Army National Guard



A San Francisco native, Judge McFetridge graduated from Santa Clara University with a Bachelor of Arts in History in 1982. He earned his J.D. from University of San Francisco School of Law in 1985.

Judge McFetridge obtained his commission from the U.S. Naval Reserve Law Program during law school and served on active duty between December 1985 and May 1989. As a Navy JAG Lieutenant, he handled over 100 general and special courts-martial. He received an Honorable Discharge from the U.S.N.R. in 1999.

Between 1989 and 1996 he was an associate at Ropers, Majeski, Kohn & Bentley in the firm's San Francisco and Sacramento offices, practicing general civil litigation. Between 1996 and October 2006, he served as a Deputy Attorney General, Office of the Attorney General, Civil Division, Employment, Regulation and Administration Section, representing state agencies in state and federal courts in employment litigation.

In 2004, Judge McFetridge entered the California Army National Guard as a Major. Between May 2005 and July 2006, he deployed with the 115th Area Support Group to Kuwait, in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. Between March and June 2006, he served in Baghdad, Iraq, working for the Joint Detention Review Committee at the U.S. Embassy and Camp Victory.

In October 2006, he was appointed by Governor Schwarzenegger to the Sacramento County Superior Court. His current assignment includes criminal and civil jury trials. Since November 2008, Judge McFetridge has served as a Military Judge in the California Army National Guard and graduated from the 52nd Military Judge Course at the Army JAG School in May 2009. Since 2010, he has supervised trial advocacy training for Army National Guard and Army Reserve Judge Advocates.



District Judge Henry T. Wingate

United States District Court,
Southern District of Mississippi
Former Lt., U.S. Navy JAG Corps

Judge Henry T. Wingate was born and raised in Jackson, Mississippi, and has served there as a United States District Judge, Southern District of Mississippi since 1985. In many of his roles as an attorney and judge, he has been the first African-American appointed.

Judge Wingate graduated from Grinnell College in 1969, earned his J.D. at Yale Law School and was admitted to the State Bar of Mississippi in 1973. After admission to the bar, he served as a Lieutenant with the U.S. Navy JAG Corps, where for two years he was its only African-American lawyer.

In 1976, Judge Wingate joined the staff of the Attorney General for the state of Mississippi as its first African-American employee. In 1980, he became a State District Attorney for Hinds and Yazoo counties. He transitioned from that office to the U.S. Attorney's Office for the Southern District of Mississippi, where he conceptualized, implemented, and directed the prosecution of "Operation Pretense" with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the outcome of which impacted the political landscape of Mississippi.

Judge Wingate has served in his current role as U.S. District Judge for the Southern District of Mississippi since 1985. Between 2003 and 2009, he served as Chief Judge. Beyond his judicial service, he has taught extensively and served on a variety of committees. He served as President of the U.S. District Judges Association for the Fifth Circuit. He was a member of the Special Investigation Committee of the U.S. Naval Academy that investigated violations of the Honor Code at the U.S. Naval Academy for a report to the Secretary of the U.S. Navy and the Congress. From 1994 to 1999, he served as a member of the Judicial Resources Committee. He currently serves on the Pattern Criminal Jury Instruction Committee for the Fifth Circuit.

In addition to receiving many honors and recognitions, including honorary doctor of laws degrees from Grinnell College, Tougaloo College, and Mississippi College, he is the founder of a Federal Court-Watch Program. The free program, which he finances, serves as a pipeline for high school and college students to explore careers in law and law enforcement and raises awareness of the lives of and programs available to inmates at Yazoo Federal Penitentiary in Mississippi.

2013 Veterans Law Conference

Presented by the Law Students Veterans Coalition of Northern California*

Program

OCTOBER 18, 2013

■ WELCOME 9:00am to 10:30am 2nd Floor, Rm 2201

Rachel Van Cleave, Dean, Golden Gate University School of Law

Sarah Yohay Eaquinto, President, Veterans Law Student Association
GGU Law Representative, Law Student Veterans Coalition

■ KEYNOTE ADDRESS

Col. Maritza S. Ryan, Professor and Deputy Head, Department of Law
U.S. Military Academy, West Point, Former Major, U.S. Army JAG Corps

■ VETERANS COURTS PANEL 10:30am to 11:45am

Hon. Cynthia Ming-mei Lee, (JD 74, Doctor of Laws 01)
Presiding Judge, Superior Court of California, County of San Francisco

Elizabeth L. Brett, Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist,
Veterans Administration San Francisco Medical Center

Kevin Dunleavy, Chief Assistant District Attorney, Alameda County

Gary Solis, Lt. Col., U.S. Marine Corps; (Ret.), Professor of Law, U.S. Military
Academy (Ret.); Adj. Professor Georgetown University and George Washington University

Moderator: Katy Tang, Supervisor, City of San Francisco, District 4

■ LUNCHEON AND KEYNOTE ADDRESS 12:00pm to 1:30pm 5th Floor, Rm 5309

Kyndra Rotunda, Associate Professor and Executive Director of Institute for Military
Personnel, Veterans, Human Rights & International Law and AMVETS Legal Clinic,
Chapman University; Lecturer, Berkeley Law; Former Major, U.S. Army JAG Corps

■ VETERANS BENEFITS PANEL 1:45pm to 3:00pm 2nd Floor, Rm 2201

Introduction: Gordon Erspamer, Partner (Ret.), Morrison & Foerster LLP,
Veterans Advocate

Dan Devoy, (JD 10), Jones & Devoy LLP, Adjunct Professor, GGU Law's Veterans
Law Externship

Edward Fabi, In-House Counsel, Sutter Health, Lt. Col. in the U.S. Airforce JAG Reserves

Claude Hutchison, Jr., Past President, Commonwealth Club, Veteran

Teresa Panepinto, Legal Director, Swords to Plowshares

■ MENTORING MIXER 4:30pm to 5:30pm 5th Floor, Rm 5309

Firm attorneys, HR representatives, and JAG attorneys will host small, roundtable
conversations to advise law students interested in pursuing military and veterans law.
Students are encouraged to bring their CVs for review.

**The Law Students Veterans Coalition of Northern California, presenting the Veterans Law Conference, supports the professional development of its members and facilitates collaboration among members and schools to assist the veterans community. Current members include students from Golden Gate University School of Law, Pacific McGeorge School of Law, Stanford Law School, UC Davis School of Law, UC Hastings College of the Law, and University of San Francisco School of Law.*



Col. Maritza S. Ryan

Professor & Deputy Head
Department of Law,
U.S. Military Academy, West Point

Colonel Maritza Ryan was born in Manhattan, New York, to Spanish and Puerto Rican parents. Upon graduating from the United States Military Academy at West Point in 1982, she was commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Field Artillery. During her tour with the 1st Armored Division, Zirndorf, Germany, she was selected for the Judge Advocate General's Funded Legal Education Program. Colonel Ryan returned stateside to attend Vanderbilt University Law School and earned her J.D., Order of the Coif, in 1988.

Colonel Ryan's initial tour as a Judge Advocate was at Fort Sill, Oklahoma, where she served as Senior Trial Counsel (Prosecutor). In 1990, she deployed to Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm as a Brigade Legal Counsel, returning to Fort Sill to be the Senior Defense Counsel. Other assignments include Assistant Professor, Department of Law, West Point; Chief of Military Justice and Officer-in-Charge, Fort Shafter Branch Office, 25th Infantry Division (Light), Hawaii; Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the Army Medical Department Center and School, Ft. Sam Houston, Texas; and Academy Professor & Deputy Head, Department of Law, West Point. Colonel Ryan became the Professor and Head of the department in September, 2006. Under her leadership, the Department of Law established the West Point Center for the Rule of Law in 2008.

Colonel Ryan, a member of the New York State Bar, holds a Master of Laws in Military Law from the Army Judge Advocate General's School, a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies from the Naval War College, and has published and presented in the areas of Law and Leadership, the Law of Armed Conflict, and Military Justice. She is married to fellow West Point graduate and classmate, Robert E. Ryan, Jr., U.S. Army (Retired), with whom she has two children, Alexander, 23, and Andrew, 20.

Kyndra Rotunda

Associate Professor and Executive Director of Institute for Military Personnel, Veterans, Human Rights & International Law and AMVETS Legal Clinic, Chapman University; Lecturer, Berkeley Law; Former Major, U.S. Army JAG Corps



Kyndra Rotunda is an Associate Professor of Military & International Law and Executive Director of the Institute for Military Personnel, Veterans, Human Rights and International Law & AMVETS Legal Clinic. She is also a Lecturer at Berkeley School of Law. Through the AMVETS Legal Clinic, faculty and clinical fellows represent active duty military families and veterans in all types of civil legal disputes with an emphasis on combat wounded troops.

Rotunda began her career as a Major in the U.S. Army JAG Corps. She served in Guantanamo Bay; served as a prosecutor at the Office of Military Commissions; and represented wounded troops at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. She was the lawyer assigned to Jessica Lynch after Lynch's rescue.

She is the author of several books including *Honor Bound: Inside the Guantanamo Trials* (Carolina Academic Press 2008), *Military & Veterans Law* (Thomson/West Publishing 2011) and *Transformative Client Interview and Counseling* (Carolina Academic Press 2012).

Rotunda formerly directed the *Clinic for Legal Assistance to Service Members* at George Mason School of Law. She is an expert in military law and has coordinated with the National Veteran's Legal Services Program (a National Veterans Group) to produce instructional materials about military disability law. These materials are used to help train lawyers around the country.

Rotunda has also testified before Congress about issues related to Guantanamo Bay and issues impacting U.S. troops. She has been featured in both scholarly and national media articles. She has contributed expertise and stories to *The Wall Street Journal*, *The Christian Science Monitor*, *The Chicago Tribune*, and *The Washington Times*. Her scholarship has been featured in law journals including *Columbia Law Review*, *Stanford Law Review*, *Minnesota Law Review*, *Southern Methodist University Law Review*, *Temple Law Review* and *Vanderbilt Law Review*.

Community Partners & Sponsors

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Swords to Plowshares

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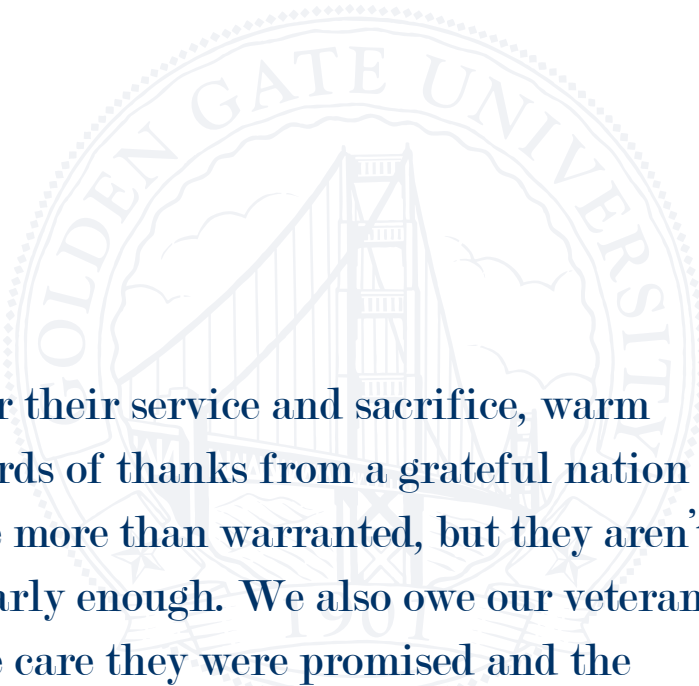
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For their service and sacrifice, warm words of thanks from a grateful nation are more than warranted, but they aren't nearly enough. We also owe our veterans the care they were promised and the benefits that they have earned. We have a sacred trust with those who wear the uniform of the United States of America. Too many wounded warriors go without the care that they need. Too many veterans don't receive the support that they've earned.

President Barack Obama