



*Because It Takes More Than Desire
to Make a Difference*



Fourth Annual Veterans Conference

REINTEGRATION AND HOMECOMING: WELCOMING WARRIORS AND SALUTING SERVICE

NOVEMBER 3, 2016

- 9:00 A.M. BREAKFAST AND CHECK-IN**
- 9:30 A.M. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION** – Rachel Van Cleave
Dean and Professor of Law, Golden Gate University School of Law
- 9:35 A.M. KEYNOTE ADDRESS – RENATO IZQUIETA**
*Supervising Attorney, Legal Aid Society of Orange County, Member,
American Bar Association Commission on Veterans Legal Services*
- 10:20 A.M. REINTEGRATION STRATEGIES**
MODERATOR: John Haramalis, *National Guard Association of California*
Deputy Sheriff Ron Perez, *Community of Veterans Engaged in
Restoration Program, San Francisco Sheriff's Department*
Captain Jeffrey Chaix, *Work for Warriors*
Keith Armstrong, L.C.S.W., *San Francisco Veterans Administration*
Elizabeth Kristen, *Senior Staff Attorney, Legal Aid Society–Employment
Law Center (LAS–ELC)*
- 11:35 A.M. BREAK**
- 11:50 A.M. KEYNOTE ADDRESS – MICHAEL BLECKER**
Executive Director, Swords to Plowshares
- 12:35 P.M. VETERANS HEALTH ISSUES** – Keith Armstrong, L.C.S.W.
San Francisco Veterans Administration
- 1:00 P.M. ADJOURN**

Renato Izquieta

Supervising Attorney, Legal Aid Society of Orange County



Mr. Renato Izquieta is a supervising attorney with the Legal Aid Society of Orange County (LASOC). He started his legal career with legal aid in 1997. As a legal services attorney he provides assistance to the low income community with family law, tenant defense, public benefits, consumer matters, IRS tax issues and a variety of other civil legal matters.

Mr. Izquieta also provides direct services to the homeless and veterans through his collaboration with Orange County's Homeless and Veterans Court. He has provided services to veterans in various civil legal matters such as family law, termination of guardianships, landlord tenant, Section 8 HUD VASH, and IRS tax matters.

In 2012, Mr. Izquieta received the Humanitarian Person of the Year award presented by the Orange County Superior Court, Community Court.

Mr. Izquieta serves currently on the ABA Commission on Veteran's Legal Services. Through this Commission, he works directly with ABA President Klein and with 20 of the most respected national leaders on veterans issues. The mission and goal of this Commission is to provide and lead innovative services through a holistic and sustainable effort to ensure veterans have access to justice.

Previously, Mr. Izquieta served on the ABA Commission on Homeless and Poverty and with the Coordinating Committee on Veterans Services and Benefits and on the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defense.

Michael Blecker

Executive Director, Swords to Plowshares



Mr. Michael Blecker served in the U.S. Army combat infantry in Vietnam from 1967 to 1970. He holds a J.D. degree from New College of California School of Law (1980) and a B.A. degree with honors from UC Berkeley (1974). Mr. Blecker has been associated with Swords to Plowshares since 1976 and has served as Executive Director since 1982.

Under Mr. Blecker's leadership, Swords to Plowshares' annual budget has grown from \$75,000 to over \$18 million, 40% of which supports approximately 350 beds in transitional and permanent housing. He has a nationwide reputation for dedicated service and as an authority on veterans' services and veterans' rights. He served on the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' Advisory Committee on Homeless

Veterans (2002-2007) which advises the Secretary; he is co-founder of both the National Coalition for Homeless Veterans and the California Association of Veterans' Service Agencies.

Mr. Blecker has served on the Congressional Commission on Service Members and Veterans Transition Assistance, the California Senate Commission on Homeless Veterans, the San Francisco Mayor's Homeless Planning Committee, the National Agent Orange Settlement Advisory Board, the Agent Orange Information Center, and the Veterans Speakers Alliance. From 2015 to 2016 he served on the federal Commission on Care, examining veteran access to VA care.

Sponsors

The following community partners and sponsors have generously supported the Fourth Annual Veterans Law Conference.



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MISSION STATEMENT

Helping veterans reconnect and establish a role in the community by introducing speakers and panelists in law, health, and employment. The Fourth Annual Veterans Conference will allow veterans, attorneys, and the community to learn about the unique skills possessed by veterans and how these skills can be used to create a successful transition into the civilian world.

