MILITARY MATTERS

6th Annual Military Matters Symposium
Veteran Treatment Courts

Thursday, November 7, 2019

11:30am    Registration
12:00-4:00pm     Program

Networking reception to follow
11:30am  Registration
12:00pm  Introductions and Remarks
  Speaker: Chairman Nick P.E. McNeil, Quitmeier Law Firm, P.C.
12:10pm  Missouri House Bill 547 - Implementation and a View from the National and State Levels
  Speaker: KC Rafferty, Office of State Courts Administrator, Missouri
1:00pm  Break
1:10pm  A View from the Bench featuring Current VTC Judges
  Speakers: Hon. Shane T. Alexander, 7th Judicial Circuit Court of Missouri, Clay County
  Hon. Ardie A. Bland, 16th Judicial Circuit Court Kansas City Municipal Division
  Comm. David J. Fry, 16th Judicial Circuit Court, Jackson County, Div. 50
  Hon. Timothy P. McCarthy, 10th Judicial District Court of Kansas, Johnson County
2:00pm  Break
2:10pm  Current Practices in VTC: Multiple Perspectives
  Speakers: Adam Baker, VTC Coordinator at 10th Judicial District Court of Kansas, Johnson County
  Chris Carter, VTC Graduate & Mentor Coordinator, Johnson County
  Kelly England, VJO at Kansas City Department of Veterans Affairs
  Tiffany Gregg, VTC Treatment Team Defense Attorney
  Dennis Johnson, VTC Volunteer Mentor Coordinator, Kansas City, Jackson County
  Bryan Meyer, CEO, Veterans Community Project
3:40pm  Question and Answer Session
4:00pm  Adjourn to Networking Reception

Moderator: David W. White, Foland, Wickens, Roper, Hofer & Crawford, PC
Nick P.E. McNeil

Nick McNeil is an attorney at The Quitmeier Law Firm and a veteran. He grew up in Germany around the military and joined the United States Air Force immediately following college. For Nick, being a lawyer is a “second” career. For years he owned his own business working with the military worldwide. He volunteers with Military Matters and is always willing to help veterans with any legal problem they are facing. He is honored to be able to make a difference in the lives of veterans and aims to make a difference for as many as possible in the years to come.

KC Rafferty

KC Rafferty is a Court Services Principal Management Analyst at the Office of State Courts Administrator (OSCA). She has been at OSCA since March 2011. KC works in the Adult Programs Unit with treatment court programs including adult, family, juvenile, DWI and veterans treatment courts. The Adult Programs staff provides technical support, current research information and training to treatment court staff around the state.

Hon. Shane T. Alexander

Judge Alexander was appointed to the circuit court of the 7th Judicial Circuit on August 6, 2008. He graduated from the University of Missouri-Columbia with a B.A. in history in 1990 and served as a Surface Warfare Officer in the United States Navy from 1990 to 1994. He graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law with his J.D. in 1997. He served as an assistant prosecuting attorney in Buchanan County from 1997 to 1999 and was assistant prosecuting attorney in Clay County from 1999 to 2004. He was the chief assistant prosecuting attorney in Clay County from 2004 to 2008. He served as municipal judge for the City of Excelsior Springs from 2004 through 2008 and was also the municipal prosecutor for the City of Smithville from 2006 to 2008.
Hon. Ardie A. Bland

Ardie A. Bland is a Municipal Court Judge for the 16th Judicial Circuit Court of Missouri – Kansas City Municipal Division. He was appointed by Kansas City, Missouri Mayor Mark Funkhouser and the City Council in 2008. Prior to his appointment, Judge Bland operated his own law office.

In addition to handling traditional Municipal Court cases, Judge Bland presides over the Municipal Court truancy docket which involves youth who fail to attend school. Since 2009, he also has presided over the Veterans Treatment Court, one of Kansas City’s three problem-solving courts that focus on the treatment and rehabilitation of qualified offenders rather than on punishment. Judge Bland is a lifelong resident of Kansas City. He holds a Bachelor of Science in economics from Truman State University and received a Juris Doctor from Drake University Law School.

Comm. David J. Fry

Commissioner David Fry was appointed to the Drug Court bench in September, 2007. Commissioner Fry is a graduate of Central Missouri State University, and served in the United States Marine Corps, attaining the rank of Major, before entering law school. He earned his J.D. from the University of Missouri at Kansas City School of Law, and was bestowed in 1985. Prior to being appointed, Commissioner Fry practiced law with the Missouri State Public Defenders Office, Jackson County Prosecutor’s Office, and was in private practice.

Hon. Timothy P. McCarthy

Judge Timothy McCarthy was appointed to the bench in 2013 by Governor Sam Brownback. He earned a bachelor of science in journalism from the University of Kansas in 1979 and received his J.D. from the Washburn University School of Law in 1982. While in law school he worked as a law clerk at Williamson & Cubbison. After graduating he remained at the firm as an Associate and later was made Partner. In 2006 Judge McCarthy moved to Gilliland & Hayes P.A. as Partner & Owner. Currently he serves as the presiding judge of Johnson County Veterans Treatment Court. He holds memberships with the American Bar Association, Kansas Bar Association, Missouri Bar Association, the Johnson County Bar Association; where he served as President in 2012, and Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association. Outside the courtroom Judge McCarthy is involved in the Boy Scouts of America – Heart of America Council.
SPEAKERS

Adam Baker

Adam Baker is the Coordinator for the Veterans Treatment Court for the 10th Judicial District of Kansas in Johnson County. He is a United States Marine Corps veteran, serving in Operation Iraqi Freedom. He was a member of the Kansas City, MO Police Department, and holds a Master’s in Teacher Leadership and Urban Education from Park University. Adam writes and speaks on the topic of trauma and resilience within veteran and first responder communities.

Chris Carter

Chris was born in KC and grew up in Overland Park. He graduated from Shawnee Mission South High School in 1994 and joined the United States Marine Corps. Kansas State was his next home. He graduated in 1999 with a Bachelor of Science Degree and in 2000 he was accepted to Officer Candidate School. After completing officer candidate school Chris was assigned to the 2nd Tank Battalion and participated in the invasion of Iraq. Upon his return, Chris assumed a training role at “The Basic School” before deploying again to Iraq in 2008. After returning home Chris started to unravel and was arrested for driving under the influence three times in one year. He entered Veteran Treatment Court in January of 2016 and graduated in May of 2017. He now runs his own real estate investment company and volunteers his time with VTC as the Mentor Coordinator.

Kelly England

Kelly England has served at the Kansas City VA (KCVA) since 2010 as the Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator. Prior to her service at the KCVA she worked at the Nashville VA as an Addiction Therapist and the Fort Campbell, Kentucky Community-Based Outreach Clinic as a Clinical Social Worker. She has assisted in the establishment of the Kansas City Municipal Veterans Court, Jackson County Veterans Court, Clay County Veterans Court, and Johnson County, Kansas Veterans Court. She serves as the liaison with the Jackson County Veterans Court. Kelly has also assisted in the establishment of numerous external partnership assisting veterans with access to pro bono or reduced fee legal care such as Military Matters, Legal Aid of Western Missouri, Veterans Volunteer Attorney Project, Kansas Legal Services, and Missouri Attorney General’s Office. She is the wife of a three-time Purple Heart Marine and the mother to two human kids and three furry kids. Her dream is to retire (or win the lottery) and provides free equine therapy for veterans and their families as well as train service dogs for our veterans.
SPEAKERS

**Dennis Johnson**

Dennis Johnson, US Army Veteran, retired Human Resource Executive (2012). Since retirement he volunteers with several organizations including Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, Heart of America StandDown for Homeless Veterans, Board member and Treasurer of the Kansas City Friends of the Problem Solving Courts, and Volunteer Mentor Coordinator for two area Veterans Treatment Courts. In 2018 Dennis was presented with the Celebration of Heroes Art Filmore Veteran Guardian Award.

**Bryan Meyer**

Bryan Meyer is a co-founder and the Chief Executive Officer of Veterans Community Project. Veterans Community Project is a nonprofit organization on a mission to eliminate veteran homeless by constructing specialized communities of tiny homes and onsite supportive services. Prior to co-founding VCP, he served in the Marine Corps as a helicopter door gunner deploying to Iraq multiple times.

**Tiffany Gregg**

Tiffany Gregg graduated from the University of Missouri-Kansas City School of Law in May of 2007. She has been employed by the Missouri State Public Defender’s office for the past 12 years. She has been with working with the Veteran Treatment Court program for four years.

**David W. White**

Dave White is Of Counsel to the law firm of Foland, Wickens, Roper, Hofer & Crawford, P. C. where he was a principal for 10 years. White served 27 years in the U. S. Army and Army Reserve retiring in 1999 with the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. He is a past Chair of the Military Matters Operating Committee where he was awarded the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation’s President’s Award and the National Conference of Bar Foundation’s Excellence Award. He is a member of the Board of Directors of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation.
MILITARY MATTERS

SERVING THOSE WHO HAVE SERVED OUR COUNTRY

THANK YOU TO OUR COMMUNITY PARTNERS

KANSAS CITY VA MEDICAL CENTER

United Way

VETERANS COMMUNITY PROJECT
To donate or learn about upcoming events, visit militarymatterskc.org.