

DAVID EDWARD COOMBS

Visiting Associate Professor of Law
Roger Williams University School of Law
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SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Prosecuted/Defended over 130 cases
- Lead Defense Counsel in United States v. PFC Bradley E. Manning
- Tried over twenty multi-day, contested jury trials
- Tried several multi-day, contested bench trials
- Achieved numerous acquittals as a criminal defense attorney
- Tried several high profile cases with extensive media coverage
- Served as defense attorney in a capital murder case
- Conducted direct/cross examination of various experts in the fields of DNA, mental health, fingerprint and handwriting examination, toxicology, pathology, and police interrogation techniques.
- Professor of Law – taught evidence, capital litigation, high profile cases, trial advocacy, criminal procedure and criminal law.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Law Office of David E. Coombs
(Providence, Rhode Island)

October 2009 - Present

**The Judge Advocate General's
School**

(Charlottesville, Virginia – Reserve Lieutenant Colonel)

Adjunct Professor of Law – Trial Advocacy and Evidence

August 2009 - Present

Roger Williams School of Law
(Bristol, Rhode Island)

Adjunct Professor of Law – Trial Advocacy and Evidence

July 2009-May 2010

**The Judge Advocate General's
School**

(Charlottesville, Virginia – Major)

Professor of Law

November 2008-April 2009

May 2006-May 2008

- Taught courses in the following subject areas: Criminal Law and Procedure; Evidence; Capital Litigation and High Profile Cases and Trial Advocacy

- Provided instruction to over 2,000 resident and non-resident students comprised of attorneys from all services, military judges, foreign exchange officers and senior Army commanders
- Director of both the University of Virginia Law School Mock Trial Program and the Judge Advocate General's Mock Trial Program

Task Force Law and Order

May 2008-November 2008

(Baghdad, Iraq – Major)

Judicial Advisor

- Mentored and assisted 16 Iraqi prosecutors and 27 investigative judges to help build essential Iraqi capacity for independent, evidence-based and transparent adjudication of cases
- Developed and implemented a case management system that allowed the court to track, monitor and manage its caseload of over 1,600 cases
- Coordinated regular meetings between Ministry of Justice prison staff and Iraqi court personnel in order to create a consolidated list of prisoners and their associated prison numbers, helping to ensure that the court's release orders were being enforced by jail personnel
- Instituted a program requiring investigative judges and prosecutors to travel to Iraqi police stations to review case files and evaluate the work of Iraqi investigators

Army Judge Advocate General Corps

May 2003-May 2005

Capital Defense Counsel

(Fort Bragg, North Carolina – Major)

(Fort Eustis, Virginia – Major)

- Defended a high-profile capital murder case (*United States v. Hasan K. Akbar*)
- Tried four contested felony cases with charges ranging from rape and indecent acts with a child to wrongful distribution of a control substance and robbery
- Represented 12 guilty plea clients charged with offenses such as aggravated assault, indecent acts with a child, wrongful distribution of a control substance and desertion
- Acted as senior defense counsel for approximately 7,700 permanent party soldiers and 36,000 annual trainees at Fort Eustis and Fort Lee

Senior Defense Counsel

May 2002-May 2003

(Camp Doha, Kuwait – Captain)

(SETAF, Italy – Captain)

- Tried six contested felony cases with charges ranging from attempted murder and aggravated assault to fraud
- Represented seven guilty plea clients charged with offenses such as aggravated assault, wrongful use of a controlled substance and fraud

- Acted as senior defense counsel for over 5,000 soldiers at the Southern European Task Force and provided oversight to defense services in the Balkans and Kuwait
- Responsible for training other defense counsel and acting as their co-counsel in cases

Defense Counsel

June 2000-May 2002

(Fort Carson, Colorado – Captain)

- Tried 18 contested felony cases with charges ranging from voluntary manslaughter, negligent homicide and rape to aggravated assault, kidnapping, larceny, fraud and wrongful distribution of a control substance
- Represented 32 guilty plea clients charged with offenses such as negligent homicide, aggravated assault, indecent acts with a child, assault, larceny, wrongful distribution of a control substance and wrongful use of a controlled substance
- Provided defense services to 15,000 soldiers at Fort Carson

Senior Prosecutor

April 1997-June 2000

(Fort Hood, Texas – Captain)

- Tried 24 contested felony cases with charges ranging from rape, indecent acts with a child and forgery to fraud and wrongful use of a controlled substance
- Prosecuted 52 guilty pleas involving soldiers charged with offenses such as indent acts with a child, wrongful distribution of a control substance, armed robbery, stalking, forgery, fraud, maiming and conspiracy
- Senior prosecutor for over 7,800 soldiers at Fort Hood

EDUCATION

The Judge Advocate General's School

May 2008

- Certified as a Military Judge authorized to preside over felony and misdemeanor cases

The Judge Advocate General's School

2005-2006

- Received Master of Laws (LL.M.) with a specialization in Criminal Law

University of Idaho

1993-1996

- Received Juris Doctorate (J.D.)
- Member of the University Dean's List: 1993-1996
- Member of the University of Idaho Trial Advocacy Team
- Winner of the Distinguished Trial Advocate Award

University of Idaho

1987-1991

- Received Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) in Telecommunications and Journalism
- Member of the University Dean's List: 1988-1991

INVITED LECTURES AND GUEST ADDRESSES

- Invited Speaker, Harvard Law School, Cambridge, Massachusetts – TOPIC: National Security Law (2014)
- Invited Speaker, Roger Williams Law School, Bristol, Rhode Island – TOPIC: The trial of PFC Bradley Manning (2013)
- Invited Speaker, Defense Institute of Legal Studies, Newport, Rhode Island – TOPIC: Prosecution of Public Corruption (2011)
- Invited Speaker, Suffolk Law School (Army Reserve Conference), Boston, Massachusetts – TOPIC: Rules of Evidence and Sexual Assault Litigation (2010)
- Invited Speaker, National Judicial College, Reno, Nevada – TOPIC: Has the pendulum swung too far? Considering recent case law regarding the admissibility of uncharged misconduct, prior acts of sexual misconduct and expert testimony (2008)
- Instructor, United States Army Europe. Continuing Legal Education Conference, Weinheim, Germany (2008)
- Invited Speaker, William S. Fulton, Jr. Appellate Military Judge’s Conference, Thurgood Marshal Federal Judiciary Building, Washington D.C. – TOPIC: New Developments in Criminal Law (2007)
- Instructor, Multi-Region Trial Defense Service Conference, Washington, D.C. – TOPICS: New Developments in Criminal Law, Mitigation Evidence in Complex Cases (2007)

PUBLICATIONS

- “*United States v. Blazier – So Exactly Who Needs an Invitation to the Dance*”, THE ARMY LAWYER, July 2010
- “*Pass Go, Collect \$200.00, and Hire Yourself an Expert – Article 46 and the Right to Expert Assistance*”, THE ARMY LAWYER, June 2008
- “*Uncharged Misconduct - The Edge is Never Dull*”, THE ARMY LAWYER, May 2007
- *Dictionary of Common Evidentiary Issues*, The Judge Advocate General’s Legal Center and School (TJAGLCS), (author) 2007, 2008

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

The Judge Advocate General’s Corps Regiment	1997 - Present
California Bar	1996 - Present
United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces	1997 - Present
District of Columbia Bar	2009 - Present
United States Supreme Court	2009 - Present
Massachusetts Bar	2009 - Present