

**Judicial Proceedings Panel
October 14, 2016 Public Meeting
Victims' Appellate Rights**

Biographies of Presenters

Ms. Meg Garvin is the Executive Director of the National Crime Victim Law Institute (NCVLI) and a clinical professor of law at Lewis & Clark Law School. Ms. Garvin is recognized as a leading expert on victims' rights. She has testified before Congress, state legislatures, and the Judicial Proceedings Panel on Sexual Assault in the Military. In 2014, she was appointed to the Victims Advisory Group of the United States Sentencing Commission and during 2013-2014 she served on the Victim Services Subcommittee of the Response Systems to Adult Sexual Assault Crime Panel of the United States Department of Defense.

Mr. Don Christensen is President of Protect Our Defenders, a national victim advocacy organization dedicated to ending rape and sexual assault in the military. Mr. Christensen served as chief prosecutor for the United States Air Force between 2010 and 2014. He served as a trial counsel, defense counsel, or military judge for every year of his 23-year career in the United States Air Force. He has tried over 150 courts-martial as a trial and defense counsel and has presided over 100 trials as a military judge.

Mr. Ryan Guilds is an attorney at Arnold & Porter LLP, where his practice includes white collar defense and criminal law. Mr. Guilds has an active pro bono practice supporting survivors of intimate partner violence and sexual assault, with an emphasis on survivors of sexual assault in the military. In 2013, Mr. Guilds spearheaded the development of Arnold & Porter's initiative to represent military and civilian victims of sexual assault by U.S. military service personnel. The initiative, developed in cooperation with Protect Our Defenders, has supported dozens of civilian victims' rights lawyers across the country and has resulted in significant legal victories in the fight to protect survivors' sexual history and psychotherapy records. He has also testified on behalf of victims before the Judicial Proceedings Panel, recommending improvements to how the Armed Services respond to sexual assaults.

Mr. Jason Middleton is a Supervising Deputy State Public Defender for the appellate division of the Colorado State Public Defender. The appellate division represents indigent felony defendants in state court appeals from every jurisdiction in Colorado, and receives an average of 600 appointments per year. He has been practicing criminal defense for 23 years, and has defended hundreds of clients in cases ranging from misdemeanors to capital murder in both trial and appellate courts. Since 2000, he has focused primarily on appellate representation in the Colorado state courts and has argued numerous appeals in the Colorado Supreme Court and Colorado Court of Appeals. He was the public defender representative on the Colorado

Commission on Criminal and Juvenile Justice Comprehensive Sentencing Task Force from 2010-2014. He has delivered continuing legal education lectures on numerous criminal law topics in Colorado, and has testified in front of state legislative committees on criminal law-related topics ranging from theft to the death penalty.

Ms. Ann Vallandingham is currently the Senior Policy Advisor to the Director, Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs at the Department of Justice. She previously served nearly 14 years on active duty as a Navy judge advocate with several deployments including a year in Iraq. She served as a prosecutor while in the Navy and worked on cases involving sexual assault, domestic violence, and child abuse; she also served as a victim's advocate on board the ship USS Constellation. Ms. Vallandingham published an article in the Naval Law Review (vol. 54) entitled "Department of Defense's Sexual Assault Policy: Recommendations for a More Comprehensive and Uniform Policy." Prior to joining the Department of Justice, Ms. Vallandingham served as a senior policy advisor for Senator Jim Webb and a counsel for the Majority staff of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. In this capacity she was involved with legislation impacting victims including the Department of Defense's sexual assault policy. Ms. Vallandingham is currently a judge advocate in the Navy Reserve.

Christopher M. Johnson is the Chief Appellate Defender for the state of New Hampshire. He has also served as a professor at UNH Law and a staff attorney at the Southern Center for Human Rights in Atlanta, GA. There, Johnson represented persons facing the death penalty in Georgia and Alabama. Johnson is a member of the National Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers and the New Hampshire Association of Criminal Defense Lawyers. He has participated in the trial of capital cases in Georgia and Alabama; and has argued cases in the United States Courts of Appeals for the First and Eleventh Circuits, as well as in the appellate courts of Georgia, Alabama and New Hampshire. Johnson is the author of several articles focusing on issues relating to the ethics and practice of criminal defense.