

Robert L. Shuck

Litigation Attorney

Award winning chief trial judge who presided over 200 bench and jury trials; delivered 100+ written rulings on evidence admissibility and procedure; and supervised and trained 10 subordinate trial judges serving across the Western United States, Alaska, Hawaii, Japan, and Korea. Passionate pretrial and trial advocacy reported by national news media during the Abu Ghraib prisoner abuse scandal. Imparted candid, realistic, and trusted legal advice to senior executives across a wide spectrum of legal areas during the most challenging of situations—including during international armed conflict and natural disasters. Experienced ability to solve often unprecedented problems facing clients serving around the world. Member of Texas bar.

Proven expertise in:

- Federal Rules of Evidence
- Pretrial and Trial Advocacy
- Professional Relationship Building
- Criminal Prosecution and Criminal Defense
- Client Expectation Management
- Legal Research and Writing
- Advocacy Training
- Creativity in the Courtroom

EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

LL.M. | The U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's School (ABA Accredited)

J.D., cum laude | Washburn University School of Law

B.A. with Distinction, Phi Beta Kappa | Purdue University

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

U.S. ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S (JAG) CORPS

Chief Criminal Court Trial Judge, Fort Bliss, Texas

2017 to 2023

Ensured felony and misdemeanor criminal trials conducted fairly and approved warrants in accordance with the federal rules of evidence, Stored Communications Act, and military rules of criminal procedure. Serve as Chief Circuit Judge for the largest and busiest judicial circuit in the US Army

Key Contributions:

- Created Knowledge Management website utilized by 50 military trial judges; regularly published trial tips read by over 500 Army litigators; produced a comprehensive trial advocacy rubric for supervising attorneys to evaluate litigation abilities
- Trained and mentored 6 active duty (full-time) and 4 reserve (part-time) military judges on all evidence and trial procedures; cited in The Army Lawyer magazine for efforts in encouraging counsel creativity in the courtroom
- Trained and mentored over 20 subordinate magistrate judges in ruling on searches, seizures, and pretrial confinement; taught law enforcement agencies on best practices for drafting search warrants
- Instructed local prosecution and defense bars on trial and pretrial advocacy including articulating probative value, conducting effective jury selection, and improving pretrial motions practice

Staff Judge Advocate, Fort Jackson, South Carolina

2015 to 2017

Chief legal officer for the US Army's Training Center and Fort Jackson a 52k-acre military installation training more than 45K soldiers annually. Managed team of 14 attorneys and 22 paralegals who collectively dispensed 10K+ legal opinions and actions covering all legal issues impacting a large federal military installation

...continued...

Key Contributions:

- Recovered \$2.3M+ in affirmative medical claims pursuant to Federal Medical Care Recovery Act
- Conducted monthly preventative law training to the chief executive and direct subordinate senior leaders on topics ranging from conducting sensitive investigations to implementing Pentagon policy changes
- Received Secretary of the Army Superior Unit Award for humanitarian and disaster relief response for Columbia, SC following 2015 flooding; navigated senior leaders through legal complexities in providing emergency humanitarian assistance to the surrounding community
- Protected installation's senior leadership and government's interests following breach of installation dam; recruited and advised multi-disciplinary investigative team; \$20+ million Federal Tort Claims Act lawsuit against Army dismissed

Deputy Director, Army Judge Advocate General Corps Future Concepts, Charlottesville, Virginia 2014 to 2015

Analyzed and commented on 45+ military doctrine publications involving military forces in campaigns and major operations

Key Contributions:

- Arbitrated 412 pre-publication comments from law of armed conflict experts and stakeholders across the US military, government, and non-profit entities while serving as editor for The Commander's Handbook on the Law of Land Warfare
- Taught graduate course on leadership and professionalism for mid-level attorneys attending resident LLM program

Director, Army Criminal Defense Services for Korea and Japan, Seoul, South Korea 2012 to 2014

Supervised nine criminal defense attorneys and six paralegals in representing over 3.3K soldiers accused of misconduct, including 90+ trials and 160+ administrative hearings

Key Contributions:

- Awarded Master Military Justice status: the highest professional skill level for Army criminal litigators
- Created first ever public service announcements over the Pacific Region Armed Forces Network television and radio stations on criminal defense topics
- Represented seven senior executives accused of misconduct during Pentagon-directed investigations; all clients either exonerated or avoided criminal prosecution
- Recognized by organization's leadership for creative use of knowledge management tools and 'Red Team' attorneys specifically assigned to attack our own case theories--approaches which resulted in numerous favorable outcomes for clients

Additional experience as **Supervising Criminal Defense Attorney, General Counsel, Employment and Labor Law Attorney, Administrative Law Attorney, Prosecutor, and Legal Assistance Attorney** at military installations in the United States, Iraq, and Germany

AWARDS AND HONORS

Jurist of the Year 2021-2022 George A. McAlmon American Inn of Court (El Paso, Texas)

Washburn Law Journal Best Case Comment

PUBLICATIONS

Employment Law: After Acquired Evidence Doctrine—An Affirmative Defense for Kansas Employers to Bar Relief for Wrongful Discharge [Gassmann v. Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Soc'y, Inc., 933 P. 2d 743 (Kan. 1997), Wash. L. J., Volume 37, No. 1, p 215-228

Bridging the Gap Trial Advocacy Tips – A Series of Online Practice Tips for Attorneys

Successful Motions Practice: Seven Views from the Bench, The Army Lawyer, Pending Publication
