

10-23-2014

# Sixth Annual Chief Justice Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture: A Conversation with Bill Suter

Erik Christensen

Golden Gate University School of Law, [echristensen@ggu.edu](mailto:echristensen@ggu.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.law.ggu.edu/rongorge>

 Part of the [Judges Commons](#), and the [Other Law Commons](#)

---

## Recommended Citation

Christensen, Erik, "Sixth Annual Chief Justice Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture: A Conversation with Bill Suter" (2014).  
*Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture Series*. 25.  
<http://digitalcommons.law.ggu.edu/rongorge/25>

This Conference Proceeding is brought to you for free and open access by the Conferences, Lectures and Workshops at GGU Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture Series by an authorized administrator of GGU Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [jfischer@ggu.edu](mailto:jfischer@ggu.edu).

Golden Gate law



OCTOBER 23, 2014

SIXTH ANNUAL

CHIEF JUSTICE RONALD M. GEORGE

DISTINGUISHED LECTURE

# A CONVERSATION WITH BILL SUTER

FORMER CLERK FOR THE UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT,  
AND FORMER ACTING JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL  
FOR THE UNITED STATES ARMY

AND

SECOND ANNUAL

VETERANS LAW CONFERENCE

PRESENTED BY THE LAW STUDENTS VETERANS COALITION  
OF NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

GOLDEN GATE UNIVERSITY

School of Law

# The Annual Chief Justice

## Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture,

named after legendary former Chief Justice of California Ronald M. George, shines a spotlight on the vital role of the courts by bringing together judicial leaders to share their perspectives on critical issues facing the judiciary.

## Program

**OCTOBER 23, 2014**

### ■ WELCOME

**Rachel Van Cleave, Dean**  
Golden Gate University School of Law

### ■ LECTURE

#### **INTRODUCTION**

**Rachel Van Cleave, Dean**

#### **LECTURE**

**MG (Ret) William K. Suter**

Former Clerk for the United States Supreme Court,  
and former acting Judge Advocate General for the  
United States Army

**Marcia Coyle**

Chief Washington Correspondent at the  
National Law Journal

### ■ CLOSING REMARKS

**Rachel Van Cleave, Dean**



Chief Justice Ronald M. George  
Distinguished Lecturer

## **MG (Ret) Bill Suter**

Former Clerk for the  
United States Supreme Court, and  
former acting Judge Advocate General  
for the United States Army

William (Bill) K. Suter recently retired from his role as Clerk of the United States Supreme Court, a position he held for 22 years. Prior to his work at the Supreme Court, Mr. Suter served the U.S. Army's Judge Advocate General's (JAG) Corps with distinction, retiring at the rank of Major General (MG).

Bill Suter began his legal career as a Captain in the Army, and soon became a professor of Administrative Law at the JAG School. Mr. Suter later served a tour in Vietnam before becoming the Judge Advocate General for the Army's 101<sup>st</sup> Airborne Division at Fort Campbell, Kentucky. In 1977, he was selected to serve as the Chief of Personnel, Plans and Training for the Judge Advocate General of the Army. Three years later, Mr. Suter became the Commandant and Director of Academics at the JAG School before being appointed as Chief Judge of the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals and Commander of the U.S. Army Legal Services Agency. In 1985, Mr. Suter was nominated by President Reagan to serve as The Assistant Judge Advocate General of the Army, a position he held for four years before being promoted to the rank of Major General upon his nomination by President H.W. Bush to serve as the acting Judge Advocate General of the Army, the Army's highest ranking attorney. He retired from the military in 1991 after nearly 30 years of military service. In 1991 Chief Justice William Rehnquist selected Mr. Suter to be the Clerk of the United States Supreme Court and President George H.W. Bush appointed him to this position.

Standing 6'5", Mr. Suter attended Trinity University in San Antonio, Texas on a basketball scholarship before he decided to pursue his law degree from Tulane University School of Law in Louisiana. There, he served on the Tulane Law Review Board of Editors, and was entered into the Order of the

Coif before receiving his commission in the U.S. Army. Mr. Suter went on to attend the JAG School's Graduate Law Program, and the U.S. Army Command and General Staff College, where he was on the Commandant's List. He later attended the National Defense University. Mr. Suter holds Honorary Doctor of Laws Degrees from Campbell University; Texas Wesleyan University; La Verne University; Mississippi College; Southern New England School of Law; and Wake Forest University.

Mr. Suter now contributes to the Hoover Institute, a public policy think tank at Stanford University, as a Visiting Fellow. He is also a consultant at U.S. Biologic Corp., a company that specializes in the detection and prevention of Lyme Disease.

## Marcia Coyle

Chief Washington Correspondent at the National Law Journal



Marcia Coyle is the Chief Washington Correspondent for The National Law Journal, a national weekly newspaper that covers law and litigation. A lawyer as well as a journalist, she has covered the U.S. Supreme Court for 27 years and is a regular contributor of Supreme Court analysis to PBS' The NewsHour. She is the author of the recently published book, "The Roberts Court: The Struggle for the Constitution," (Simon & Schuster, 2013).

Before joining the NLJ, she covered state and national government and politics for a Pennsylvania daily newspaper for more than a decade. Besides her work for the NLJ, she has written about the Supreme Court and other legal issues for such publications as Vogue, Ms. magazine and the New York Times Book Review, and she is a contributing author to "A Year in the Life of the U.S. Supreme Court," (Duke University Press).

She earned her undergraduate degree from Hood College, Frederick, Md.; a master's degree in journalism from Northwestern University, Evanston, Ill., and her J.D. degree from the University of Baltimore School of Law, Baltimore, Md. Her reporting has garnered such national journalism awards as the George Polk Award for legal reporting, the Investigative Reporters and Editors Award for outstanding investigative reporting, and the American Judicature Society's Toni House Journalism Award for a career body of work involving coverage of the nation's courts and justice system.

# 2014 Veterans Law Conference

Presented by the Law Students Veterans Coalition of Northern California\*

## Program

OCTOBER 23, 2014

### ■ WELCOME 9:00am to 10:15am 2nd Floor, Rm 2201

**Rachel Van Cleave**, Dean, Golden Gate University School of Law

**Byron Suarez**, President, Veterans Law Student Association  
GGU Law Representative, Law Student Veterans Coalition

### ■ KEYNOTE ADDRESS 9:15am to 10:00am

**COL (Ret) William Gunn**, Former General Counsel to the  
U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs; Former Colonel, U.S. Air Force JAG Corps

### ■ PANELISTS 10:00am to 11:15am

**Keith Armstrong**, Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at UCSF &  
Director of Veterans' Outreach at San Francisco City College

**Keith Boylan**, Deputy Secretary, Veterans Services at CalVet

**Dr. Robert L. Owen**, Professor of Medicine at UCSF &  
Compensation and Pension Examiner, Dept. of Veterans Affairs

**Mary Wright**, Partner at Ogletree Deakins

**Moderator: COL John Haramalis**, Garrison Commander, Camp Roberts;  
President of the California National Guard Association

### ■ KEYNOTE ADDRESS 11:15am to 12:00pm

**John Keker**, Partner at Keker & Van Nest;  
Former Lieutenant in the Marine Corps with combat service in Vietnam

### ■ LUNCHEON 12:00pm to 1:30pm 5th Floor, Rm 5309

*\*The Law Students Veterans Coalition of Northern California, presenting the Veterans Law Conference, supports the professional development of its members and facilitates collaboration among members and schools to assist the veterans community. Current members include students from Golden Gate University School of Law, Pacific McGeorge School of Law, Stanford Law School, UC Davis School of Law, UC Hastings College of the Law, and University of San Francisco School of Law.*



## **COL (Ret) William Gunn**

Former General Counsel to the U.S.  
Department of Veterans Affairs;  
Former Colonel, U.S. Air Force JAG Corps

Will Gunn has had a brilliant career as a public servant. Gunn served as General Counsel for the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) from May 2009 until July 2014. While at VA, Gunn supervised a national legal team of more than 700 employees for America's largest integrated healthcare system and second largest cabinet department. He is a retired Air Force colonel, a former military lawyer and a former White House Fellow. During his military career, Gunn served as the first-ever Chief Defense Counsel for the Guantanamo Military Commissions, the first proceedings of their kind to be conducted by the United States in more than 60 years.

In 2003, Gunn was named Chief Defense Counsel in the Department of Defense Office of Military Commissions. He built a defense team and supervised all defense activities for detainees selected for trial before military commissions. Gunn won acclaim for his principled leadership and commitment to ensuring that detainees received effective representation. In doing so, he set the tone that allowed military lawyers under his leadership to vigorously defend their clients and bring the *Hamdan v. Rumsfeld* lawsuit in which the Supreme Court issued a landmark decision invalidating the system set up by the President to try accused war criminals. These efforts radically changed public perceptions about military lawyers and raised international attention on the Guantanamo prison camp.

A native of Fort Lauderdale, FL, Gunn graduated from the United States Air Force Academy with military honors and he is a cum laude graduate of Harvard Law School. While at Harvard, he was elected President of the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau, the nation's oldest student run legal services organization. He also holds a Masters of Laws degree in Environmental Law from the George Washington University School of Law and a Master of Science degree in National Resource Strategy from the National Defense



University. Gunn retired from the military in 2005 and was named President and CEO of Boys & Girls Clubs of Greater Washington where he led one of the largest affiliates of Boys & Girls Clubs of America with a budget approaching \$20 million and over 10,000 members in Maryland, Virginia and Washington DC.

Gunn has chaired the American Bar Association's Commission on Youth at Risk and served on the boards of Christian Service Charities and the Air Force Academy Way of Life Alumni Group. He and his staff were featured on 60 Minutes in 2005. He has also been featured in *The New Yorker Magazine*, *The Wall Street Journal*, the *Harvard Law Bulletin*, *Diversity & the Bar Magazine* and the *Tavis Smiley Radio Show*. Gunn has also received many awards and honors including an honorary doctorate from Nova Southeastern School of Law, the Harvard Legal Aid Bureau's Outstanding Alumni Award, a Human Rights Award from the Southern Center for Human Rights, and the American Bar Association's Outstanding Career Military Lawyer Award. He has served as a licensed minister and currently serves as a deacon in his church. Will and his wife, Dawn, have three children and currently live in Northern Virginia.

## John Keker

Partner at Keker & Van Nest;  
Former Lieutenant in the Marine Corps  
with combat service in Vietnam



John W. Keker is a veteran and a lawyer working as a Partner at Keker and Van Nest, LLP. John began his career at Princeton University in 1965, where he earned his B.A. and graduated cum laude. He would go on to serve in the United States Marine Corps as a platoon leader until being wounded in Vietnam, followed by medical retirement in 1967.

Mr. Keker earned his J.D. at Yale Law School in 1970, and clerked for the Honorable Earl Warren, former Chief Justice of the United States Supreme Court. Mr. Keker would later found Keker and Van Nest, LLP in 1978 with his law school classmate, Bill Brockett.

Mr. Keker specializes in white collar crime, complex commercial and intellectual property, antitrust and security, and he has been described by *The American Lawyer* as “a giant of the IP trial bar.” After four decades of practice, Mr. Keker has earned a reputation as one of the country’s top trial lawyers. His many accolades include: being named amongst the “Top 100 Most Influential Lawyers in the United States” by the *National Law Journal*, from 2006 to present; being listed as one of the “Top 100 Lawyers” by the *Daily Journal*, from 1998 to present; being named the “Number One Lawyer in the Bay Area” by the *San Francisco Chronicle*; and, being named a “Leading Trial Lawyer (Tier 1) recommended for White Collar Defense Litigation” by *The Legal* in 2012.

Mr. Keker continues to practice at Keker and Van Nest and is a Fellow at the American College of Trial Lawyers and the International Academy of Trial Lawyers. Mr. Keker also sits on the American Board of Trial Advocates. He is a member of the American Bar Foundation and the American Board of Trial Advocates.



## **Keith Boylan**

Deputy Secretary,  
Veterans Services at CalVet

Keith Boylan was appointed February 11<sup>th</sup> 2013 by Governor Brown as Deputy Secretary for the Veterans Services Division at the California Department of Veterans Affairs.

Keith served in the US Army from 1989-1992 as a Tactical Fire Specialist and deployed to Iraq with the 2nd Armored Cavalry Regiment in support of Operations Desert Shield, Desert Storm, and Desert Calm. After graduating from San Francisco State University, Mr. Boylan began working with Swords to Plowshares, a non-profit veteran service agency in San Francisco, as their Gulf War Outreach Coordinator. There, he was tasked with oversight of the Office of the Special Assistant for Gulf War Illness which included providing testimony to the Presidential Special Oversight Board on an array of issues, including the hazards associated with depleted uranium munitions, anthrax vaccinations, pyridostigmine bromide tablets, and various other toxins identified by the National Academy of Sciences to be present during the Gulf War.

He later served as the Government Relations and Community Education Director for the Institute for Veteran Policy where he expanded their Combat to Community (C2C) program, a curriculum based program for community partners who interact directly with recently returned veterans. The C2C program included training for law enforcement, human resource professionals, clinicians, and legal advocates.

Mr. Boylan most recently served as the Government Relations Liaison for the California Association of Veteran Service Agencies. CAVSA is a consortium of non-profit veteran service agencies throughout the state that provide housing, employment, training, and mental health services to more than 20,000 veterans a year.

Keith has served on the Board of Directors for the National Gulf War Resource Center and Veterans For Peace. He is currently a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars, American Legion, and AMVETS.

## **Dr. Robert L. Owen**

Professor of Medicine at UCSF &  
Compensation and Pension Examiner,  
Dept. of Veterans Affairs



Robert Owen is a doctor and a Professor of Medicine at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF) Medical Center where he specializes in internal medicine. There, Dr. Owens studies gastroenterology, general internal medicine, intestinal infectious diseases, HIV infection and AIDS, travel medicine and medical effects of military occupational environmental exposures, especially in Persian Gulf, Afghanistan, Vietnam (Agent Orange) and Ionizing Radiation in exposed veterans.

Doctor Owen earned his B.S. at the University of Oklahoma, graduating Phi Beta Kappa and as a National Merit Scholar, and he later earned his M.D. at Harvard University School of Medicine. He has been a Fellow at Harvard Medical Center and UCSF, and he conducted his residencies at the Beth Israel Medical Center and UCSF. Dr. Owen also worked as a Fellow of the American Gastroenterological Association.

Doctor Owen is also affiliated with the San Francisco Veterans Affairs Medical Center, where he has studied the effects parasitic diseases on human immune systems, such as the protozoa, giardia. Doctor Owen also works at the San Francisco VA Medical Center as a Compensation & Pension Examiner, functioning as an advocate for Veterans by directing them to indicated points of contact for filing claims and to the proper resources for medical care.



## **Keith Armstrong**

Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at UCSF & Director of Veterans' Outreach at San Francisco City College

Keith Armstrong, L.C.S.W. is a Clinical Professor of Psychiatry at the University of California, San Francisco (UCSF).

He directs the San Francisco Veterans Administration's (SFVA) Veteran's

Outreach Program at San Francisco City

College, the first ever VA funded mental health program on a college campus, the SFVA's Family Therapy Program where he provides supervision and training to psychiatry residents, psychology externs, interns, fellows and social work interns. He also directs the social workers in the mental health service, is a member of the SFVA's Posttraumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) Clinical team and he consults to the UCSF Intensive Family Therapy program. In 2013 the Veterans' Outreach Program won a silver medal given by the American Psychiatric Association. Mr. Armstrong is the recipient of multiple teaching awards including the prestigious 2011 UCSF Department of Psychiatry George Sarlo Teaching Award and over his career has won 5 teaching awards from UCSF psychiatry residents. In 2014 he participated in a Congressional roundtable in Washington, DC. Focusing on how best to reach out to returning Veterans. In 2013 he won VA national Social Worker of the year and is the co-author of the best-selling book, *Courage After Fire, Coping Strategies for Troops Returning from Iraq and Afghanistan and Their Families*. His newest co-authored book is entitled *Courage After Fire for Parents: Strategies for Coping When your Son or Daughter Returns from Deployment*.

## Mary Wright

Partner at Ogletree Deakins



Mary Wright is a Shareholder and the former General Counsel of Ogletree Deakins, the US Powerhouse in Employment Litigation. She advises employers on all aspects of the employer-employee relationship, including hiring, firing, compensation, performance management, leave administration, disability in the workplace, and workplace investigations of discrimination, harassment and retaliation. Mary served as the Chair of her former firm's Personnel Committee for seven years, during which time she learned to see employment issues as an employer and developed a very practical approach to advice and counsel. She specializes in working with employers to identify compliance issues early on and reach workable business solutions to complex human resource problems.

Ms. Wright represents corporations before federal and state agencies, and defends employers in all types of employment litigation matters before state and federal courts. She has extensive experience defending employers against claims of disability, sex, race, national origin and age discrimination, and against claims of violation of federal and state medical and disability leave of absence laws. She served as both a Judge in Small Claims Court and Mediator for employment cases in the Los Angeles County Superior Court.

Mary is also the founding Editor HR Gazette, a daily on-line newspaper for HR Professionals and Employment Lawyers. You can follow her on Twitter (@HRGazette) and LinkedIn. Additionally, she is the published author of "Aunt Eleanor's 'Never Fail' Pie Crust and Classic Pie Recipes," a cookbook dedicated solely to resurrecting the lost art of baking pies from scratch.



## **Colonel John N. Haramalis**

Garrison Commander, Camp Roberts;  
President of the California National  
Guard Association

Colonel John N. Haramalis is President of the National Guard Association of California (NGAC), a non-profit veterans' advocacy organization. As NGAC President, he drafted, sponsored, and supported the passage of over 15 veterans' bills into law in the California State Legislature. He is on the Advisory Board for the GGU Veterans Advocacy Law Center, and is also a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars and the American Legion. Colonel Haramalis is licensed to practice law in California, Washington, and the District of Columbia.

Colonel Haramalis is in his 30th year of service with the U.S. Army. Colonel Haramalis joined the military in 1984 as a Private First Class, and later attended the California Military Academy, where he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in 1987 upon graduation. His most recent promotion to Colonel was in 2008. He is a combat veteran who served with the 82nd Airborne Division in Afghanistan, and also served in Kosovo, Bosnia, South Korea, Ukraine, Japan, and Thailand, among numerous other countries.

In Bosnia, Colonel Haramalis was assigned to NATO Headquarters and led a multinational task force that pursued fugitive Bosnian war criminals indicted by the International Criminal Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia, four of which were captured and extradited to The Hague during his tour of duty. Colonel Haramalis' military awards and decorations include the Legion of Merit and the Bronze Star Medal.

Colonel Haramalis is a graduate of the Naval War College and the Army Command and General Staff College. He holds a B.A. and M.A. in International Relations from San Francisco State University, a M.A. in Liberal Arts from Dartmouth College, a J.D. from Santa Clara University, and an L.L.M. in International Legal Studies from Golden Gate University.

# Community Partners & Sponsors

The following community partners and sponsors have generously supported both The 2014 Chief Justice Ronald M. George Distinguished Lecture and the Second Annual Veterans Law Conference.

## COMMUNITY PARTNERS

Equal Justice Works, Veterans Legal Corps

Jones & Devoy, LLP

OneJustice

Swords to Plowshares

## SPONSORS



THOMSON REUTERS

KEKER & VAN NEST<sup>LLP</sup>

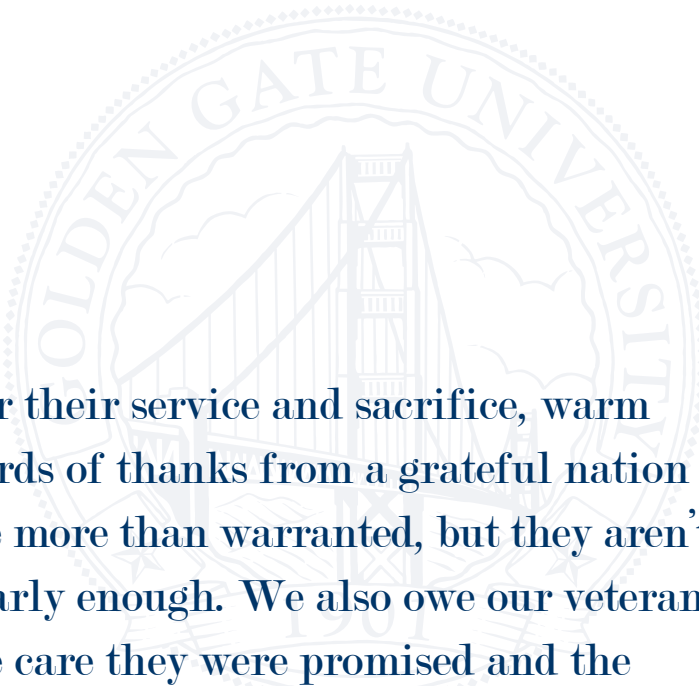


Sedgwick<sup>LLP</sup>



THE BAR ASSOCIATION OF  
SAN FRANCISCO





For their service and sacrifice, warm words of thanks from a grateful nation are more than warranted, but they aren't nearly enough. We also owe our veterans the care they were promised and the benefits that they have earned. We have a sacred trust with those who wear the uniform of the United States of America. Too many wounded warriors go without the care that they need. Too many veterans don't receive the support that they've earned.

**President Barack Obama**