

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

625 Indiana Avenue, NW., Suite 900, Washington, DC 20004
phone (202) 501-5970

MARGARET BARTLEY, chief judge; was nominated to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims by President Barack Obama on June 22, 2011, confirmed by the U.S. Senate on May 24, 2012, appointed by the President on June 25, 2012, and took the judicial oath on June 28, 2012, for a term of fifteen years. She became Chief Judge of the Veterans Court on December 4, 2019. For over 17 years prior to her appointment, Chief Judge Bartley served as a veterans advocate, working as staff attorney and then senior staff attorney for National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP), a veterans service organization. In that capacity, she advised and trained staff and service officers for The American Legion, Military Order of the Purple Heart, Vietnam Veterans of America, and other veterans service organizations and State departments of veterans affairs, on issues related to veterans benefits and veterans preference in Federal employment. She also represented veterans and survivors of veterans in their pursuit of VA benefits before the USCAVC and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. From 2004 to 2012, Chief Judge Bartley served as editor of the NVLSP veterans' law quarterly, *The Veterans Advocate*. She also testified before Congress concerning federal agency failure to apply veterans preference laws and appeared on behalf of amici curiae in several significant veterans preference cases. From 2005 until her appointment to the bench, Chief Judge Bartley also served as Director of Outreach and Education for the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program. In that capacity, she organized nationwide training classes for lawyers interested in providing pro bono representation to veterans and their survivors before the USCAVC. Prior to her career as a veterans advocate, Chief Judge Bartley served as a judicial law clerk to the late Judge Jonathan R. Steinberg of the USCAVC. Chief Judge Bartley earned a Bachelor of Arts degree, *cum laude*, from Pennsylvania State University in 1981 and a juris doctor degree, *cum laude*, from the American University Washington College of Law in 1993. Aside from her many articles on veterans law published in *The Veterans Advocate*, Chief Judge Bartley is co-author, co-editor, or contributing author of several other articles and publications, including the *Veterans Benefits Manual* (LexisNexis) (co-author 1999–2010, co-editor 2011–12); *American Veterans' and Servicemembers' Survival Guide* (Veterans for America, 2008) (contributing author); *VA Benefits for Low-Income Veterans* (Clearinghouse Review, Sept–Oct 2006) (co-author); *VA's Obligations Toward Claimants: Analysis of the Veterans Claims Assistance Act of 2000* (Clearinghouse Review, July–August 2001) (co-author); *The Elderlaw Portfolio Series: Veterans Benefits for the Elderly* (Little, Brown and Company, 1996) (co-author); and *Consideration of Pain and Other Factors in Rating Disabilities* (Clearinghouse Review, July–August 1996) (co-author).

CORAL WONG-PIETSCH, judge; born in Waterloo, IA, Judge Pietsch has a distinguished career in public service, both in the military and as a civilian. She was commissioned in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and served six years on active duty. Judge Pietsch continued her service in the U.S. Army Reserve and rose to the rank of Brigadier General. She became the first woman to be promoted to the rank of Brigadier General in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps and the first woman of Asian ancestry to be promoted to Brigadier General in the Army. Until her appointment to the bench, Judge Pietsch held the position of Senior Attorney and Special Assistant at Headquarters, U.S. Army Pacific located in Honolulu, Hawaii. In this position, she provided and managed legal services in support of the U.S. Army Pacific's mission to train Army Forces for military operations and peacetime engagements aimed at promoting regional stability. As part of the 2007 "surge" in Iraq, Judge Pietsch volunteered as a Department of Defense civilian to deploy to Iraq for a year, where she was seconded to the U.S. Department of State to serve as the Deputy Rule of Law Coordinator for the Baghdad Provincial Reconstruction Team. During her deployment to Iraq, Judge Pietsch assisted with numerous civil society projects involving a variety of Rule of Law partners, including the Iraqi Jurist Union, Iraqi Bar Association, law schools, and international rights, women's rights, and human rights

organizations. She evaluated and sought funding for numerous projects aimed at building capacity within the Iraqi legal community to include the establishment, in close collaboration with the Iraqi Bar Association, of a Legal Aid Clinic at one of Iraq's largest detention facilities. In 2006 Judge Pietsch was appointed by the Governor of Hawaii to the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission where she served for seven years. Shortly after the appointment, the Governor selected Judge Pietsch as its Chair. Earlier in her civilian legal career, Judge Pietsch had been appointed a Deputy Attorney General for the State of Hawaii, advising the State Department of Health, State Department of Agriculture, and the State Criminal History Records Division. Judge Pietsch's academic degrees include a bachelor of arts, master of arts, and a juris doctor degree. She was also a Senior Executive Fellow at the Harvard University Kennedy School of Government, is a graduate of the Defense Leadership and Management Program, and a graduate of the Army War College. Her awards and decorations include the Distinguished Service Medal, Legion of Merit, Meritorious Service Medal, Joint Service Commendation Medal, Decoration for Exceptional Civilian Service, the Meritorious Civilian Service Medal, Superior Civilian Performance Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Medal. She has been the recipient of the Organization of Chinese Americans Pioneer Award, the Hawaii Women Lawyers Attorney of the Year Award, the Honolulu YWCA Achievement in Leadership Award, the Catholic University Alumni Achievement Award, the Federal Executive Board Award for Excellence, the U.S. Army Pacific Community Service Award and recognized for lifetime accomplishments by the Women Veterans Igniting the Spirit of Entrepreneurship. Judge Pietsch is admitted to the bars of the United States Supreme Court, the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals, U.S. District Court of the District of Hawaii, State Bar of Hawaii, State Bar of Iowa, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces; nominated by President Barack Obama and subsequently appointed a Judge of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims on May 24, 2012 and sworn in June 2012.

WILLIAM S. GREENBERG, judge; Judge Greenberg was a partner of McCarter and English, LLP. He initially joined the firm as an associate following a judicial clerkship in 1968, then returned as a partner in 1993. The majority of his career has involved litigation in Federal and state courts. Judge Greenberg had been a Certified Civil Trial Attorney by the Supreme Court of New Jersey since 1983. He served as Chairman of the Judicial and Prosecutorial Appointments Committee of the New Jersey State Bar Association, which considers all candidates to be a judge or prosecutor submitted by the Governor of New Jersey. He was President of the Association of Trial Lawyers of America, New Jersey, (The New Jersey Association for Justice) and has served as Trustee of the New Jersey State Bar Association and of the New Jersey State Bar Foundation. He also served as a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court Committee on the Admission of Foreign Attorneys. He established and chaired the New Jersey State Bar Association (public service/pro bono) program of military legal assistance for members of the Reserve Components called to active duty after September 11, 2001. He was a member of the New Jersey Supreme Court Civil Practice Committee. With the approval of the Secretary of Defense, on the recommendation of the White House, Judge Greenberg became Chairman of the Reserve Forces Policy Board in 2009, a Board established by the Secretary of Defense in 1951 and by Act of Congress in 1952. On July 26, 2011, Judge Greenberg was awarded the Secretary of Defense Medal for Outstanding Public Service, the second highest civilian award in the Defense Department, at a public ceremony in the Pentagon, and completed his term in August 2011. In 2006 his *Civil Trial Handbook*, Volume 47 of the *New Jersey Practice Series*, was published by Thomson/West. A special 20th anniversary issue was published in 2009, to commemorate the 1989 publication of its predecessor, *Trial Handbook for New Jersey Lawyers*. A retired Brigadier General, he served as a member of the New Jersey World War II Memorial Commission. In June 2009 he received the highest honor granted by the New Jersey State Bar Foundation, its medal of honor for his work in establishing the military legal assistance program, and especially in his public service representation of soldiers at Walter Reed Army Medical Center during their Physician Disability Hearings. His article in the June 2007 issue of *New Jersey Lawyer Magazine* describes the program in detail. He has served as special litigation counsel to the Adjutants General Association of the United States and as special litigation counsel *pro bono* to the National Guard Association of the United States. Judge Greenberg was a Commissioner of the New Jersey State Commission of Investigation. He also served as Assistant Counsel to the Governor of New Jersey and as Commissioner of the New Jersey State Scholarship Commission. Professor Greenberg served as the first Adjunct Professor of Military Law at the Seton Hall University School of Law. He was chosen the New Jersey Lawyer of the Year for 2009 by the *New Jersey Law Journal*. He received the Distinguished Alumnus Award from the Johns Hopkins University in 2010, and the Rutgers Law School Public Service Award in 2010 for his work in developing and leading the efforts to represent wounded and injured soldiers at Walter Reed. Judge Greenberg is admitted in New Jersey, New York, and the District of Columbia. He is a member of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States, and of the Third, Fourth, and Federal

Circuits, the Southern District of New York, and the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. Judge Greenberg is a graduate of the Johns Hopkins University (A.B., 1964) and Rutgers University Law School (J.D., 1967). He is married to the former Betty Kaufmann Wolf of Pittsburgh. They have three children, Katherine of New York, Anthony of Baltimore, and Elizabeth of New York; nominated to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims by President Barack Obama on November 15, 2012, confirmed by the U.S. Senate on December 21, 2012, appointed by the President on December 27, 2012, and took the judicial oath on December 28, 2012, for a term of fifteen years.

MICHAEL P. ALLEN, judge; Judge Allen was nominated by the President of the United States in June 2017. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate, and appointed a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in August 2017. United States District Judge Elizabeth Kovachevich of the Middle District of Florida administered the judicial oath to Judge Allen on August 11, 2017. For 16 years before his judicial appointment, Judge Allen was a tenured full professor of law at Stetson University College of Law in Gulfport, Florida. He was also the director of Stetson's Veterans Law Institute, and he spent four years as the College of Law's associate dean. Judge Allen also served as a visiting professor of law at the University of Illinois College of Law. Before entering teaching, Judge Allen practiced law for nine years in the litigation department of the Boston-based international law firm Ropes & Gray. Judge Allen graduated *summa cum laude* from the University of Rochester earning bachelor's degrees in American history and political science. He received his juris doctor from Columbia Law School, where he was a Harlan Fiske Stone Scholar during his final two years. As a professor, Judge Allen taught courses in constitutional law, civil procedure, federal courts, remedies, and veterans' benefits law. He has been a prolific author, co-writing two books and more than 25 articles and essays. Judge Allen also received numerous awards for his scholarship and teaching including the Stetson University Award for Excellence in Scholarship, the Brown-Dickerson Award for Excellence in Scholarship, the Stetson University Award for Excellence in Teaching, and the Stetson University Award for Excellence in Professionalism and Career Development. He also received the Stetson's Golden Apple Award for teaching and was twice named the best all-around professor. Judge Allen was also a frequent speaker at community and professional groups while in legal education. Among his speaking engagements were featured roles at the judicial conferences of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. In addition, Judge Allen testified before the Veterans' Affairs Committees of both the U.S. Senate and the United States House of Representatives. Before taking the bench, Judge Allen was active in professional associations. He served on the Board of Trustees of the Southeastern Association of Law Schools and was the Chair of the American Association of Law Schools' sections on Remedies and New Law Teachers. He is also active in his synagogue where, along with his wife, he received the Shofar Award for community service. Judge Allen is married to Debra Brown Allen and has two sons, Ben and Noah.

AMANDA L. MEREDITH, judge; Judge Meredith was nominated by the President of the United States in June 2017. She subsequently was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and appointed a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in August 2017. For more than 12 years prior to her appointment, Judge Meredith worked for the Republican staff of the U.S. Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs. Most recently, she served from 2015 to 2017 as the Deputy Staff Director and General Counsel for Chairman Johnny Isakson. She served as General Counsel from 2008 to 2015 and as Benefits Counsel from 2005 to 2008 under Ranking Member Richard Burr and Chairman/Ranking Member Larry Craig. During this time, she was responsible for legislative and oversight activities regarding a wide range of veterans' issues and assisted Members of Congress in enacting numerous laws to help improve the benefits and services for our nation's veterans. Prior to joining the staff of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Judge Meredith worked for the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims for more than seven years. While at the Court, she served from 2004 to 2005 as the Director of the Court's Task Force for Backlog Reduction, a team of experienced attorneys dedicated to reducing the inventory of pending appeals. From 2000 to 2004, she was the Executive Attorney to Chief Judge Kenneth Kramer, serving as the principal legal advisor to the Chief Judge regarding all judicial functions; supervising the chambers law clerks; and managing the chambers caseload. She served from 1997 to 2000 as a judicial law clerk to Judge Kramer. Judge Meredith graduated *summa cum laude* from the University at Buffalo with a Bachelor of Science degree in accounting and graduated *magna cum laude* from the University at Buffalo Law School, where she was a member of the Buffalo Law Review.

JOSEPH L. TOTH, judge; Judge Toth was nominated by the President of the United States in June 2017. He was subsequently confirmed by the U.S. Senate and was appointed a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in August 2017. Judge

Toth is a veteran of the Judge Advocate General (JAG) Corps of the United States Navy, where he served as Senior Defense Counsel in Pearl Harbor, Hawaii, and provided legal assistance to veterans, service members, and their families. In 2011, Judge Toth was deployed to the Zhari district of Afghanistan where he served as a Field Officer for the Rule of Law Field Force Afghanistan (ROLFF-A) and was stationed with the Army's 10th Mountain Division. He received the Joint Service Commendation Medal for his service in Afghanistan. After leaving active duty, Judge Toth served as Associate Federal Defender in Milwaukee, WI, with a focus on appellate litigation and motions practice. Judge Toth has served on or appeared before several federal and military courts, including the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and the United States Court of Appeals for the Fourth Circuit. Judge Toth clerked for Judge Daniel A. Manion of the United States Court of Appeals for the Seventh Circuit and Judge Robert J. Conrad of the United States District Court for the Western District of North Carolina. Additionally, he worked as an Associate Counsel at Drinker Biddle & Reath, LLP in the commercial litigation group. Judge Toth received his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Chicago and his juris doctor from the Ave Maria School of Law, where he was the managing editor of the Ave Maria Law Review.

JOSEPH L. FALVEY, JR., judge; Judge Falvey was nominated by President Donald J. Trump, confirmed by the Senate, and appointed a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in May 2018. Before his judicial appointment, Judge Falvey was the District Counsel, Detroit District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. As District Counsel, Judge Falvey supervised the District legal staff and was responsible for resolving issues related to statutory and regulatory compliance, government contracting and fiscal law, labor and employment law, environmental law, claims, real property, standards of conduct/ethics, procurement fraud, and litigation. Previously, Judge Falvey served as an Assistant United States Attorney, in the United States Attorney's Office for the Eastern District of Michigan. As a member of the National Security Unit, he was responsible for investigating and prosecuting matters involving national security including matters involving individuals and organizations that engage in foreign counter-intelligence, espionage, and those who plan, financially support, or carry out international and domestic terrorist activities. Before joining the United States Attorney's Office, Judge Falvey was a Professor of Law at Ave Maria School of Law from 1999 to 2007 and the University of Detroit School of Law from 1994 to 1998, where he taught evidence, trial advocacy, military law, national security law, and criminal law and procedure. Judge Falvey is also a retired Marine Corps officer who began his military career as an Armor Officer in 1981 and served as a Tank Platoon Commander, Battalion Adjutant, and Anti-Tank (TOW) Company Executive Officer. From 1984 to 1987, he attended law school through the Marine Corps's Funded Legal Education Program. Certified as a Judge Advocate in 1987, Judge Falvey was initially assigned to Camp Pendleton, CA, where he served as a prosecutor or defense counsel in more than 250 courts-martial. He also served as the Senior Judge Advocate for the 11th Marine Expeditionary Unit (Special Operations Capable). In 1990, Judge Falvey attended The Judge Advocate General's School of the Army, and he was subsequently assigned as the Deputy Head, Military Law Branch, Judge Advocate Division, Headquarters Marine Corps. In 1994, Judge Falvey left active duty and continued to serve in the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. From 1994 to 1998, Judge Falvey was a Special Courts-Martial Judge and presided over more than 100 courts-martial. In 1998, he was assigned as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate for Operational Law at U.S. Central Command, and he was mobilized in support of Operation Enduring Freedom in the aftermath of the 9/11 terrorist attacks. In this capacity, he worked closely with various agencies of the U.S. Government on matters related to the Global War on Terrorism and he deployed to Afghanistan in 2002. Judge Falvey subsequently served as an Appellate Judge for the U.S. Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals. From 2008 to 2010, Judge Falvey served as the Commanding Officer, Marine Forces Reserve, Legal Services Support Section. Judge Falvey retired in 2011 having attained the rank of Colonel. His decorations include the Legion of Merit (with star), Defense Meritorious Service Medal, Meritorious Service Medal, Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal, Joint Service Achievement Medal, and Navy-Marine Corps Achievement Medal. Judge Falvey was selected as both the ABA Outstanding Young Military Lawyer (1990) and the Judge Advocate Association Outstanding Career Judge Advocate (2011). Judge Falvey holds a Bachelor of Arts in economics from the University of Notre Dame, a juris doctor, *cum laude*, from Notre Dame Law School, and a master of laws, Distinguished Graduate, from The Judge Advocate General's School. Judge Falvey and his wife, Anne, have nine children and they are licensed foster parents who have opened their home to more than a dozen abused and neglected children.

SCOTT J. LAURER, judge; Judge Lauer was nominated by President Donald J. Trump, confirmed by the Senate, and in August 2020 he received his judicial commission, becoming a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Before his judicial

appointment, Judge Laurer served as Deputy Legal Counsel to the National Security Council at the White House. There he advised the President, Vice President, Assistant to the President for National Security Affairs, and the staffs of the National Security Council and Homeland Security Council. Judge Laurer served in the United States Navy for 30 years, retiring from active duty as a Captain in the Judge Advocate General's Corps. He supported combat operations as senior legal advisor for the USS Abraham Lincoln Carrier Strike Group during its historic 10-month deployment for Operation Enduring Freedom, Operation Southern Watch, and Operation Iraqi Freedom. As a senior officer, Judge Laurer held various distinguished positions including the following: Special Counsel to the Chief of Naval Operations; Commanding Officer, U.S. Region Legal Service Office Europe, Africa, and Southwest Asia; Special Legal Advisor to Commander, International Security Assistance Force and U.S. Forces-Afghanistan; Senior Legal Advisor to Commander, North American Aerospace Defense Command and U.S. Northern Command; and Deputy Legal Counsel to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. A Woodbury, NJ, native, Judge Laurer graduated from Rutgers University. He earned his juris doctor from Temple University School of Law and his master of laws (international law) from The George Washington University Law School.

GRANT C. JAQUITH, judge; Judge Jaquith was nominated to the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims by President Donald J. Trump on September 19, 2019, confirmed by the U.S. Senate on July 23, 2020, appointed by President Donald Trump on September 1, 2020, and took the judicial oath the next day. Until his judicial appointment, Judge Jaquith had served as the United States Attorney for the Northern District of New York since July 1, 2017, leading the work of 50 lawyers in four offices who prosecuted federal criminal cases and represented the United States in civil litigation, from investigation through trial or other resolution and appeal. While United States Attorney, Judge Jaquith served as Vice Chair and then Chair of the Servicemembers' and Veterans' Rights Subcommittee of the Attorney General's Advisory Committee. Judge Jaquith became an Assistant U.S. Attorney on August 6, 1989; he served as the NDNY's Narcotics Chief and Chief of the Albany Office from 1998 to 2006, Chief of the Criminal Division from 2006 to 2010, and First Assistant U.S. Attorney from 2010 to 2017. In 2016, Judge Jaquith was honored by the Department of Justice with a national Director's Award for Executive Achievement. Judge Jaquith was commissioned in the U.S. Army in 1979 and served in the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps from 1982 to 2011, rising to the rank of Colonel in 2004. His military awards include the Legion of Merit. Judge Jaquith was an Army circuit judge from 2001 to 2010, presiding over courts-martial at forts throughout the continental United States and in Alaska, Germany, and Korea. In 2006, he was activated to serve as the trial judge at Fort Bragg, NC. Judge Jaquith's other military assignments, including active duty from 1982 to 1988, involved advising commanders and staff on legal aspects of disciplinary actions and command administration and operations; providing legal assistance to soldiers, veterans, and their families; settling civil claims; providing instruction on legal issues; litigating at administrative boards; and prosecuting criminal cases. Judge Jaquith was in private practice with Bond Schoeneck & King in Syracuse from 1988 to 1989 and taught Juvenile Law and Federal Income Taxation at Drury College, Fort Leonard Wood, MO, in 1984. In 1982, he interned at the Public Defender's Office in Gainesville, FL, where he represented defendants in misdemeanor trials. Judge Jaquith received his Juris Doctor from the University of Florida College of Law in 1982 and a Bachelor of Science, *cum laude*, in business administration and accounting from Presbyterian College, Clinton, SC, in 1979, from which he was a Distinguished Military Graduate. He is married to Rosemarie Perez Jaquith, who is also a lawyer, and has six children (Amanda, Larene, Gordon, Olivia, Isabelle, and Colton) and six grandchildren.

OFFICERS OF THE U.S. COURT OF APPEALS
FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

Clerk of the Court.—Gregory O. Block, 501–5970.

Chief Deputy Clerk Operations Manager.—Anne P. Stygles.

Counsel to the Clerk.—Cary P. Sklar.

Senior Staff Attorney, Central Legal Staff.—Cynthia Brandon-Arnold.

Deputy Executive Officer.—Patrick H. Barnwell.

Librarian.—Allison Fentress.