

# DAVID EDWARD COOMBS

11 South Angell Street, #317  
Providence, Rhode Island 02906  
Phone: (508) 689-4616 Fax: (508) 689-9282  
e-mail: info@armycourtartialdefense.com

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## SUMMARY OF QUALIFICATIONS

- Defended/Prosecuted over 150 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**

**October 2009 - Present**

www.armycourtartialdefense.com

(Providence, Rhode Island)

*Specializing in Criminal Defense*

### **Roger Williams School of Law**

**July 2009 - Present**

(Bristol, Rhode Island)

*Weisberger Visiting Associate Professor of Law – Criminal Procedure and Trial Team*

*Adjunct Professor of Law – Trial Advocacy and Evidence*

### **U.S. Army Defense Appellate Division**

**June 2013 - Present**

(Fort Belvoir, Virginia – Reserve Lieutenant Colonel)

*Appellate Defense Counsel*

**The Judge Advocate General's  
School**

(Charlottesville, Virginia – Reserve Lieutenant Colonel)

***Adjunct Professor of Law – Trial Advocacy and Evidence***

**August 2009 - June 2013**

**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**

(Baghdad, Iraq – Major)

***Judicial Advisor***

**May 2008 - November 2008**

- 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**

***Capital Defense Counsel***

(Fort Bragg, North Carolina – Major)

(Fort Eustis, Virginia – Major)

**May 2003 - May 2005**

- 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 indecent 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.) with a major in Telecommunications and Journalism
- Member of the University Dean's List: 1988-1991

## **INVITED LECTURES AND GUEST ADDRESSES**

- Invited Speaker, Federal Bar Association of Rhode Island, Providence, Rhode Island – TOPIC: Cutting Edge Issues in Criminal Defense and Military Law (2015)
- 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