

Curriculum Vitae of James M. Branum

LEGAL EMPLOYMENT

Solo Law Practice (2006-date) primarily focused on civilian practice before US military courts-martial, administrative boards, and appellate courts

- Participated in cases at:
 - Fort Hood, Texas
 - Fort Bliss, Texas
 - Fort Carson, Colorado
 - Fort Sill, Oklahoma
 - Fort Stewart, Georgia
 - Fort Gordon, Georgia
 - Fort Bragg, North Carolina
 - Fort Riley, Kansas
 - Fort Leavenworth, Kansas
 - Fort Drum, New York
 - Fort Campbell, Kentucky
 - Fort Knox, Kentucky
 - Fort Lee, Virginia
 - National Guard posts in Oklahoma and Texas
 - US Army Human Resources Command, St. Louis
 - US Army Pardon and Parole Board, Crystal City, Virginia
 - US Army CO Review Board
 - US Army Court of Criminal Appeals (*pro hac vice*)
 - Joint Base Lewis-McCord, Washington
 - Tinker AFB, Oklahoma
 - Sheppard AFB, Texas
 - Charleston Naval Brig, South Carolina
 - Miramar Naval Consolidated Brig, California
 - Marine Corps Base Camp Lejeune, North Carolina

- US Court of Criminal Appeals for the Armed Forces (*pro hac vice*)
- Major Cases:
 - ***United States v. Robin Long*** (court-martial at Fort Carson - the first US soldier to be deported from Canada after having fled there to avoid military service in the current era)
 - ***United States v. Victor Agosto*** (court-martial at Fort Hood - one of the first US soldiers to refuse to deploy to Afghanistan)

United States v. Travis Bishop (court-martial at Fort Hood, subsequent appeals to the US Army Court of Criminal Appeals and the US Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. - This case was argued principally over the issue of whether the failure of a command to inform a soldier of his or her right to seek CO status, should constitute a defense to actions taken in obedience to conscience but otherwise in violation of law)

- Facilitated the early discharge of more than 250 servicemembers to date
- Non-military law work in Oklahoma has included estate planning, consumer bankruptcy, criminal defense and LGBT law issues

Oklahoma Center for Conscience and Peace Research, Legal Director (2006-date)

- Co-founded the organization in 2004
- Supervised the Oklahoma GI Rights Hotline project from 2007-2011
- Current work focuses on providing pro-bono and low-cost representation to members of the US military seeking discharge on the grounds of conscientious objection, as well as speaking engagements on the topics of conscience and war

BAR ADMISSIONS/QUALIFICATIONS

- Oklahoma Bar Association, member in good standing
- United States District Court, Western District of Oklahoma, member in good standing
- United States District Court, Eastern District of Oklahoma, member in good standing
- Qualified to practice before all U.S. Military courts-martial pursuant to the provisions of the Uniform Code of Military Justice and military regulations
- Have entered appearance *pro hac vice* before the US Army Court of Criminal Appeals and the United States Court of Appeals of the Armed Forces

EDUCATION

Juris Doctorate, Oklahoma City University School of Law, December 2005

- Dean's Summer Public Interest Fellowship, 2005 (Worked in the area of military law, under the supervision of a local attorney in Oklahoma City)

- Audited a course in military law from New College of California School of Law (San Francisco, CA)
- Co-Founder, National Lawyers Guild student chapter, 2003-2005
- On-campus employment included working as a lab assistant for the law school computer lab, and also as one of the *WestLaw* Student representatives

Bachelor of Arts, Austin Graduate School of Theology,¹ May 2000

- Major in Bible with a Christian Ministry emphasis
- Student Government Vice-President
- Volunteered with local campus ministry projects at the University of Texas in Austin,
- Other course work completed at Southwestern Oklahoma State University, University of Science and Arts of Oklahoma, Oklahoma City Community College and Texas State University²

Continuing Education, approved by the Oklahoma Bar Association

- Completed 7 credit hours of ethics CLE credit since 2006
- Completed 76.5 credit hours of non-ethics CLE credit since 2006

TEACHING

- **Continuing Legal Education Presentations:**
 - Presenter for CLE “Representing soldiers who can no longer serve” in Anchorage, Alaska (October 2008)
 - Presenter for CLE “Representing soldiers who can no longer serve” in Fairbanks, Alaska (October 2008)
 - Presenter for CLE “Court-Martial Practice” at the NLG National Convention in Seattle (2009)
 - Presenter for CLE “Being effective in court and not losing your politics” at the NLG National Convention in Seattle (2009)
 - Presenter for CLE “Doing your first court-martial” at the Texoma Regional Convention of the National Lawyers Guild, Killeen, Texas (2009)
 - Presenter for CLE “Doing Justice: Representing Unpopular Clients” at the Thurgood Marshall School of Law in Houston (2011)
 - Presenter for CLE “Army AWOL Defense” at the University of New Mexico in Albuquerque (2011)

¹ then known as the Institute for Christian Studies in Austin, Texas

² then known as Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas

- **Other educational presentations:**

- Presented “The History of Oklahoma's Exemptions in Bankruptcy”³ to the Bankruptcy Section of the Oklahoma County Bar Association (2012)
- Taught “Advanced G.I. Rights counselor training” for the Flint Hills GI Rights Hotline in Manhattan, KS (2011)
- Taught “G.I. Rights counselor training on Army AWOL policies” at Under the Hood outreach center, Killeen, TX (2011)
- Taught “G.I. Rights counselor training on Army AWOL policies” at the GI rights Network conference in San Francisco, CA (2010)
- Presented “Civilian practice before military courts” at the University of Arkansas School of Law in Fayetteville (2010)
- Co-presented “How Does One’s World View and Faith Affect Career Choices?” at Oklahoma City University School of Law (2010)
- Presenter for “G.I. Rights counselor training on AWOL policies” at the GI rights Network conference in Atlanta, GA (2009)
- Co-presented “Stories from helping soldiers in need”, Memorial Road Mennonite Brethren Church, 2008
- Presenter for “Applied Lessons from Vietnam and Winter Soldier”, workshop at the National Lawyers Guild Convention in Detroit, MI, 2008
- Presenter for “Introduction to G.I. Rights Advocacy/Basic Triage Skills” Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission in Colorado Springs, CO, 2008
- Presenter for “Introductory G.I. Rights Counselor training” in Manhattan, KS, 2008
- Presenter for “Introductory G.I. Rights Counselor training” in Oklahoma City, OK 2007

PUBLISHING

- “AWOL from the Army — Information for Lawyers and Counselors on how to help” published in *On Watch* (the journal of the Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild), January 2008⁴
- “Ninety Years of GI Resistance in Oklahoma” published in *The Oklahoma Revelator*, Autumn 2008⁵

3 <http://jmbranum.com/bankruptcy-temp/wp-content/uploads/2012/03/History-and-Function-of-Oklahoma-bankruptcy-exemptions-2012-edition.pdf>

4 An updated version was published at <http://nlgmltf.org/wp/downloads/memos/awol.v3.pdf> in 2011.

5 <http://www.redflagpress.com/oklahomarevelator/issues/rfp-issue1-final.pdf>

PRESS COVERAGE

- Named by the *American Bar Association Journal* as one of the “Top 10 Legal Rebels of 2010”
- Quoted in stories in *The New York Times*, *The Toronto Star*, *Army Times*, *Rocky Mountain News*, *Seattle Times*, *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, *The Oklahoman*, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, and other media outlets
- Appeared on *The Alan Colmes Show* (nationally syndicated radio)
- Appeared on the program *Crosstalk* on Russia Today (satellite TV network)

OTHER ACTIVITIES

- **Military Law Task Force of the National Lawyers Guild**, Chair (2008-date), Steering Committee Member (2007-date)
- **National Lawyers Guild**, Past Texoma Co-Regional Vice President, Chair of the Oklahoma Chapter
- **GI Rights Hotline Network**, member of the board of directors, 2011-2012
- **Joy Mennonite Church**, Minister of Peace and Justice (2007-date)
 - Job responsibilities include preaching once per month, serving as the church administrator, and coordinating the congregation's peace and justice ministries
 - Commissioned for special ministry by the Western District Conference of Mennonite Church USA

REFERENCES

Available on request.

CONTACT

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