

Spotlight On



CAPT Alexander Whitaker

After his command tour at Naval Legal Service Office Southeast, CAPT Alexander Whitaker retired in 2007 and returned to his undergraduate alma mater, where he is now the college's chief of staff. Berry College is a top-tier liberal arts college in northwest Georgia that boasts the nation's largest campus and largest student work program. It has an undergraduate student body of over 1,900 students, a \$100 million budget, and endowment of over \$650 million.

CAPT Whitaker's duties include coordinating the activities of the school's governing board as corporate secretary and overseeing various program areas of the college. He is involved in the various legal issues that arise at the school, and also does fundraising. Working as the

president's principal assistant and one of the officers of the college, he describes his job as "not unlike a Navy chief of staff, staff judge advocate, and executive assistant all combined. There's never a dull moment."

CAPT Whitaker entered the JAG Corps through the Law Education Program, having been commissioned initially in 1982 as a special duty intelligence officer, serving first in *USS America (CV-66)*. He earned his Juris Doctor at the University of Virginia and graduated with honors from the Naval Justice School.

CAPT Whitaker's first tour was at Naval Legal Service Office Long Beach, followed by staff judge advocate tours in Scotland and London. An international law subspecialist, he earned his Master of Laws in international and comparative law from Georgetown, and was head of the Law of the Sea branch in the International and Operational Law Division - Code 10 before transferring to Japan as the force judge advocate. In Japan he managed the U.S. lawsuit that shut down the Shinkampo/Envirotech incineration plant, the first tort action overseas of its kind.

After an executive officer tour at Trial Service Office East in Norfolk, Va., he served as deputy assistant judge advocate general for General Litigation - Code 14 before going to command in Jacksonville. When he retired he had over 25 years of service. During his Navy years he had traveled to 27 countries on five continents.

"I always viewed my Navy service as making possible another career of service after I took off the uniform," he said. "I was delighted to have the opportunity to return to my college and give back to the place that I credit in many ways with making my JAG Corps career possible and so rewarding. In the same way, I credit the Navy and JAG Corps with preparing me well for my current responsibilities."

CAPT Whitaker is grateful for his years in the JAG Corps. "I am very thankful for the tremendous leaders I had in the JAG Corps to learn from and for the many exceptional shipmates of all ranks I was privileged to work with," he said. He says he continues to stay in touch with those he served with through e-mail and Facebook, and in his travels.

His advice for junior JAG officers? "Cherish the opportunity you have to practice law in direct service of your country: that's not something many lawyers get to do. Appreciate the exceptional quality of those you work for and with, and the camaraderie that you will never replicate in any other setting. And invest yourself fully in those who work for you: you will have no greater satisfaction through the years than seeing them succeed and do great things."



LT Donald Marcari

Former judge advocate, LT Donald Marcari's career in the JAG Corps, while brief, provided him with vast legal experience that has served him well in his civilian career. Since 2000, LT



Marcari has been a managing partner at the firm Marcari, Russotto, Spencer & Balaban; where he is the senior litigator. The firm has 13 offices throughout Virginia and North Carolina and specializes in Personal Injury & Civil Litigation.

LT Marcari's first tour was to the mobile judge advocate trial team for the senior defense counsel, followed by tours with the Naval Legal Service Office and Naval Air Station Oceana.

During his JAG Corps career, LT Marcari represented military members in the U.S. and overseas in over 40 trials and provided legal assistance to hundreds of active duty, family members and retired personnel.

LT Marcari attended college at Appalachian State University where he received his bachelor's degree. Marcari went on to earn his Juris Doctor from Campbell University School of Law and is a member of the U.S. Supreme Court, U.S. Court of Military Appeals, Eastern District Court 4th Circuit and the North Carolina and Virginia State Bars.