

Colonel Larss G. Celtnieks

On September 10, 2015, Secretary of Defense Ashton B. Carter appointed Colonel (COL) Larss G. Celtnieks, JA, U.S. Army, to the U. S. Court of Military Commission Review (USCMCR). He was sworn as a USCMCR military appellate judge on September 23, 2015. Colonel Celtnieks assumed duties as an Associate Judge on the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals in July 2014. He graduated from Towson State University in 1987, received a J.D. from the University of Baltimore School of Law in 1990, and an LL.M in Military Law from The Judge Advocate General's School in 1999. Colonel Celtnieks is admitted to practice before the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, the Army Court of Criminal Appeals, the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals, the Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals, and the Court of Appeals of Maryland.

After enlisting in 1984, COL Celtnieks completed recruit training at Parris Island, South Carolina and served in the Marine Corps Reserve until his honorable discharge in 1990. He accepted a direct commission and entered the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps in 1991. His previous assignments include: Legal Assistance Attorney and Defense Counsel, Fort Meade, Maryland, 1991-1994; Trial Counsel and Chief, Legal Assistance, 24th and 3d Infantry Divisions, Fort Stewart, Georgia, 1994-1997 (deployed to Kuwait as Task Force Judge Advocate, Task Force 1-64, from April to August 1996); Chief, Criminal Law, 2d Infantry Division, Uijongbu, Korea, 1997-1998; Chief, Administrative and Civil Law, 1st Armored Division, Bad Kreuznach, Germany, 1999-2001 (deployed to Kosovo as Command Judge Advocate, Task Force Falcon, from February to June 2001); Officer-in-Charge, Katterbach Law Center, 1st Infantry Division, Katterbach, Germany, 2001-2003 (deployed to Turkey as Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Army Forces-Turkey, from February to April 2003); Operational Law Observer/Trainer, Battle Command Training Program, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, 2003-2005 (deployed to Iraq as Special Prosecutor for Crimes Against the Coalition, Combined Joint Task Force-7, from September to November 2003); Chief, Operational Law, Multi-National Force-Iraq, Baghdad, Iraq, 2005-2006; Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Army Garrison, Fort Meade, Maryland, 2006-2008; Regional Defense Counsel (Atlantic Region), U.S. Army Trial Defense Service, Fort Meade, Maryland, 2008-2010; Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Detachment South/Southwest, U.S. Forces-Afghanistan, Kandahar, Afghanistan, 2010-2011; and Chief, Tort Claims Division, U.S. Army Claims Service, Fort Meade, Maryland, 2011-2014.