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## DAVID J. WESTERN

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PRESIDENT & DEAN  
APPALACHIAN SCHOOL OF LAW

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### PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- Demonstrated leadership skills as active-duty Air Force Colonel (O-6) with a proven record of achievement as an administrator, manager, executive and legal professional.
- Accomplished attorney with (20+) years of experience managing complex litigation from investigation through trial and appeal.
- Won Award “Best Course in Humanities” as Professor of Law at United States Air Force Academy
- Fluent in Arabic, Spanish, and French -- used this skill to negotiate international agreements.
- Experience advising senior officials on matters of public policy and all areas of law.
- Proven success in hundreds of trials, hearings, and arguments.
- Promoted Below-the-Zone to Lieutenant Colonel (<1% awarded this) for sustained excellence.
- Led two law schools through American Bar Association site visits ensuring reaccreditation.
- Won Award as “1L Professor of the Year” the first-year teaching at Appalachian School of Law.
- Highest ethical standards; proven integrity; committed to excellence.

### EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

#### President & Dean

1 October 2023 – Present

*Appalachian School of Law, Grundy Virginia*

- Successfully raised close to \$1 million in the first year as President, significantly enhancing the institution's financial health through strategic fundraising efforts and donor engagement.
- Spearheaded the development and implementation of new educational policies, strategies, and objectives to align with the evolving demands of legal education.
- Led faculty in creating and approving a new curriculum tailored to the NextGen Bar Exam, ensuring ASL graduates are equipped to excel in a changing legal landscape.
- Oversaw faculty recruitment, development, and evaluation, building a highly qualified academic team aligned with ASL’s mission and values.
- Managed the school’s budget and resource allocation, ensuring fiscal responsibility while supporting key academic and operational initiatives.
- Fostered an environment of excellence in teaching, research, and professional growth, contributing to the broader legal community through scholarship, advocacy, and public service.
- Strengthened relationships with alumni, the university administration, and the legal community, serving as the primary liaison and representing ASL in academic, legal, and public forums.

#### Dean of Students & Visiting Assistant Professor of Law

1 July 2022 – 1 October 2023

*Appalachian School of Law, Grundy Virginia*

**Strategic Planning:** Collaborated with various departments to craft and implement a comprehensive vision for student engagement, academic support, and professional development programs. Successfully orchestrated an American Bar Association (ABA) site visit inspection, meticulously supervised preparation of all necessary documentation and coordinated faculty and staff engagement to guarantee a seamless and impressive review. Taught courses in Criminal Law, International Law, and Space Law.

**Associate Dean for Administration and Student Development 15 November 2018 – 1 July 2022**  
*Liberty University School of Law, Lynchburg Virginia*

**Strategic & Budgetary Planning:** In coordination with Dean responsible for financial matters, including collaborative financial planning and sustainability, resource allocation, the identification of new sources of income, the monitoring of expenditures within appropriate levels, linking resource allocation to strategic and operational planning, and compliance with university approved policies. Successfully secured the reaccreditation of the law school by meticulously orchestrating and coordinating comprehensive responses to all site evaluation questions during an ABA site visit inspection.

**Student Affairs:** Ensured the effective delivery of a high-quality law student experience during student tenure at the School of Law. Oversaw the activities and events designed to enhance the personal growth of students. Coordinated the planning of a calendar of activities that afforded students significant opportunities for recreational activity and service projects. Maintained an open-door policy for students to discuss issues related to the opportunities and challenges of the law school. Ensured students had access to mental health resources when dealing with stress and anxiety.

**Facilities & Technology:** Worked with law school community to provide excellent facilities for the delivery of a high-quality legal product and instruction. Coordinated the daily operations of the law school including personnel and budgetary matters. Served as spokesperson to internal and external communities to extend the reach of the law school.

**Staff Judge Advocate (General Counsel/District Attorney) 28 June 2017 – 15 November 2018**  
*Ninth Air Force, Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina*

**Senior Legal Advisor:** Chief Legal Advisor to commander (general officer) of Ninth Air Force with over 29,000 military members and over 60,000 employees. Oversaw operations of eight operational wings. Supervised over 50 attorneys and legal staff of over 100 legal employees covering five legal offices. Managed and directed all courts-martial and trial management for over 100 courts-martial per year. Guided and directed military justice process for all cases involving complex trial litigation at the felony level. Advised the General Court-Martial Convening Authority as to which felony cases proceeded to trial and managed all plea agreements for felony cases. Oversaw employment law, contract law, environmental law, ethics, labor law, administrative law, and compliance divisions for Headquarters Ninth Air Force responsible for wings and installations in over 23 states.

**Staff Judge Advocate (General Counsel/District Attorney) 27 April 2015–27 June 2017**  
*Travis Air Force Base, California*

**Senior Legal Advisor:** Chief Legal Advisor to base commander with over 10,000 employees. Oversaw prosecution of the Air Force's largest court-martial caseload. Managed annually an average of 20 courts-martial; 70+ non-judicial punishments; and over 50 discharge cases. Oversaw employment law, contract law, environmental law, ethics, labor law, administrative law, and

compliance divisions. Supervised 30+ active duty and reserve attorneys, paralegals, and administrative support personnel. Directed Air Mobility Command's busiest General Law Division. Managed annually over 8,400 legal reviews, \$85 million in contracts reviews, and oversaw environmental portfolio worth over \$50 million.

**Senior Mentor:** Trained staff to examine witnesses, evaluate testimony, argue evidentiary objections, ensured parties were guaranteed due process, and issued final written decisions. Ensured staff conducted research on complex factual and legal issues and were able to assemble, correlate, and analyze voluminous material. Demonstrated composed and professional demeanor in interpersonal interactions. Took advantage of the skill of legal support staff and management services technicians to provide a firm, yet flexible dispute resolution environment. Resolved matters in a consistent, impartial, timely, and efficient manner. Conveyed legal positions and their basis to a wide range of audiences with diverse backgrounds and varied levels of understanding. Applied diplomacy and reason; effectively handled hostile, distressed, and/or difficult parties.

**Deputy Staff Judge Advocate (Deputy General Counsel)** **15 June 2013 – 26 April 2015**  
*Headquarters United States Air Forces Central Command, Al Udeid Air Base Qatar and Shaw Air Force Base, South Carolina*

**Chief Legal Counsel to Headquarters Air Forces Component Warfighting Commander:** Supervised legal services to seven Air Expeditionary Wings and the Combined Air Operations Center (CAOC) at Al Udeid Air Base in Qatar. Led higher-headquarters coordination on all legal issues to include ethics, military justice, operations, fiscal law, international, and administrative law. Supported over 26,000 airmen while deployed in the Central Command Area of Responsibility during active warfighting operations.

**International Legal Counsel:** Enabled military-to-military operations for 13 gulf countries as a part of the Gulf CAOC initiative. Framework critical for cooperative regional defense in the Middle East. Resolved strategic level miscommunications involving the French Charles De Gaulle carrier thereby saving \$100 million and ensuring success of five-week exercise. Oversaw international agreements allowing for U.S. to posture troops in Syria and Iraq. Led \$50 million Afghan airfield contract transition. Negotiated away \$19,000 lodging dispute among coalition partners. Founded Judge Advocate Target Working Group which accelerated deliberate targeting of ISIS hotspots leading to more than 500 kinetic hits and over 90 ISIS targets destroyed.

**Military Justice Leader:** Led the best military justice program in the Air Force. In addition to the fastest non-judicial punishment program air force wide, also coordinated all courts-martial in the warfighting Area of Responsibility. Ensured perfect justice sometimes coordinating up to five courts-martial in one week. Salvaged murder trial by convincing (in Arabic) victim's father to testify at court-martial. Prosecution salvaged key relations between Qatar and the United States.

**Chief of Military Justice** **15 June 2012 - 14 June 2013**  
*United States Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio*

**Military Justice Subject Matter Expert to AFMC Commander:** Led Command's Sexual Assault Program Working Group. Guided 34 recommendations to Headquarters Air Force and led the charge to create the Air Force's Special Victim's Counsel (SVC) program. Trained over 80 judge advocates on military justice processing. Directed review of 179 sexual assault cases for congressional oversight. Resolved evidentiary dispute involving \$500,000 in stolen goods. Advice led to prosecution of three complicated rape cases and one murder case. Cleared massive docket involving 8 Air Force Bases and over 100 courts-martial.

**Chief of Administrative Law****15 June 2011 – 14 June 2012***United States Air Force Materiel Command, Wright-Patterson Air Force Base, Ohio*

**Administrative Law Subject Matter Expert to AFMC Commander:** Provided administrative law oversight and guidance to 15 offices and 452 personnel. Directed legal advice and decision making for all administrative law subjects from a Broken Spear (nuclear mishap) response to several Aircraft Accident Investigations. Primary legal advisor to \$900 million procurement dispute involving aircraft bound for coalition partner. Rendered advice on investigations, inquiries, litigation, disciplinary matters, labor grievances, and all administrative actions for AFMC. Taught Law of War Medical Law, and International Operations Law at U.S. Air Force School of Aerospace Medicine (USAFSAM). Advised headquarters on doctrine, deployment and operations, cyber weapons reviews, and was the primary legal inspector for all bases in Air Force Materiel Command.

**Staff Judge Advocate (General Counsel)****15 June 2009 – 14 June 2011***United States Embassy, Canberra, Australia*

**Principal DoD Legal Advisor to Defense Attaché and US Ambassador to Australia:** Represented the U.S. before the Australian Government on all legal issues pertaining to the embassy. Interpreted and administered the Status of Forces Agreement and other bilateral defense protocols. Led Embassy's response to Australian legislation involving cluster munitions and thereby saved decades of military-to-military operations by avoiding legal entanglements to international relationship. Set up \$4 million Asia/Pacific Domestic Violence Center of Excellence.

**International Law Expert:** Crafted Australia's first space law rules of engagement. Paved way for U.S./Australia joint space and cyber operations. Averted \$600,000 lawsuit between the DoD and Western Australia Police. Convinced Australia to give the Marines jurisdiction over an assault case in Darwin. First time Australia had conceded jurisdiction in over 6 years. Result due to negotiation to reduce racially charged event between Northern Territory police and U.S. Marines.

**International Exchange Officer****15 June 2008 - 14 June 2009***Directorate of Operations and International Law (DOIL), Campbell Park, Canberra Australia*

**Deputy Director (DOIL):** Provided opinions and legal support to Australian Prime Minister, Minister of Defence, and Australian Defence Force Service Chiefs. Trained, led, and mentored Australian officers of all service branches in areas of space, law of armed conflict, rules of engagement, and international law. Sole Australian defence representative to several top-level planning meetings to include defence (DoD), trade/commerce (DFAT), and immigration. Advice led to signed Paris Child Protection treaty. Developed first ever space law program for Australian Defence Force. Provided research oversight and legal review of new weapons technology ensuring Australian compliance with Article 36 of the First Additional Protocol to the Geneva Conventions.

**Staff Judge Advocate (General Counsel)****15 June 2007 - 14 June 2008***United States Military Training Mission (USMTM), Riyadh, Saudi Arabia*

**Head Legal Advisor to Chief USMTM:** Provided advice on military justice, contract law, international law, labor and civil law, ethics, and diplomatic affairs. Legal liaison for Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Ministries of Defense, Aviation, Justice, Foreign Affairs, and Interior. Arabic proficiency led to resolution of outstanding claims spanning the previous 12 years and past 8 attorneys.

**George Washington University – Air Force Institute of Technology Student**

LL.M. International & Comparative Law

**20 August 2006 – 14 June 2007**

(Graduated with 4.0 GPA)

**Deputy Staff Judge Advocate (Deputy General Counsel)**

**15 July 2004 – 19 August 2006**

*Dover Air Force Base, Delaware*

**Deputy Legal Advisor:** Served as legal advisor to 2 Wing, 7 Group, and 29 Squadron Commanders. Supervised 18-member law center. Oversaw administration of civil, environmental, and labor law divisions. Conducted legal office advocacy training program. Oversaw administration of military justice system. Represented the Air Force before courts-martial, Article 32 hearings and administrative boards. Acted as primary base ethics advisor. Provided legal assistance to military members and their dependents.

**Assistant Professor of Law**

**15 July 2001 – 14 July 2004**

*United States Air Force Academy, Colorado Springs, Colorado*

**Law Professor:** Course director for Criminal Law. Taught course in International, Space, Islamic law, Law for Air Force Officers, and International Humanitarian Law. Adjunct Professor of Arabic and French in the Department of Foreign Languages.

**Case Legal Advisor/Board Legal Advisor:** Supported Cadet Honor System as case legal advisor and board legal advisor. Adjudicated and ruled on evidence and legal procedures. Conducted military justice hearings, investigations, and other legal work for headquarters USAFA and local AF bases.

**Area Defense Counsel**

**15 July 1999 – 14 July 2001**

*Little Rock Air Force Base, Arkansas*

**Defense Attorney:** Advised over 875 clients. Defended over 40 courts-martial, 250 non-judicial punishments, and 100 discharge proceedings at over 20 different Air Force bases. Served as lead counsel in all levels of felony trials to include various complex cases of murder, and rape. Managed the budget and staff of independent legal office.

**Assistant Staff Judge Advocate**

**11 September 1997 - 14 July 1999**

*Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota*

**General Attorney:** Led divisions in operations law, environmental law, claims, military justice, and legal assistance. Chief trial counsel in more than a dozen felony level courts-martial.

**OTHER EXPERIENCE**

**OTHER MILITARY SERVICE**

Material Distribution and Storage Specialist, Portland ANG Base, Portland OR, 1994-1996

Material Distribution and Storage Specialist, 419<sup>th</sup> Fighter Wing, Hill AFB, Utah 1989 – 1994

**ADDITIONAL PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT**

Adjunct Professor of Arabic, Delaware State University, 2004 – 2006

Supply Pastor, Vansant & Buchanan First Presbyterian Churches, 2022 – 2025 (Completed three-year pastoral certification program in six months.)

## AWARDS AND HONORS

Legion of Merit

Meritorious Service Medal with seven devices

Air Force Commendation Medal with two devices

Air Force Achievement Medal with three devices

1993 Outstanding Airman of the Year – 419th Fighter Wing

2005 Outstanding Judge Advocate of the Year – Air Mobility Command

2007 Manfred Lachs International Space Law Moot Court Competition, India, World Champion

2007 Outstanding Judge Advocate of the Year – Headquarters Centralized Board Winner

2009 Outstanding Judge Advocate of the Year – 13th Air Force

2009 SAF/IA International Affairs Excellence Award Winner for PACAF

2010 Thomas P. Keenan Award for Top International and Operations Law Attorney

2012 Field Grade Officer of the Year, Air Force Materiel Command

2013 Air Force Language Capable Airman of the Year (Officer Category)

2016 18<sup>th</sup> Air Force Military Justice Excellence Award

2023 1L Professor of the Year – Appalachian School of Law

## PUBLICATIONS

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

*Islamic “Purse Strings”: The Key to Amelioration of Women’s Legal Rights in the Middle East*, 61 A.F. L. Rev. 79 (2008)

*How to Say “National Security” in 1,001 Languages*, Air and Space Power Journal, Fall (2011)

*Are JROTC and CAP on a Collision Course with the Convention on the Rights of the Child*, 77 A.F.L.Rev. 65 (2017) (with Gabriel J. Chin)

*Jurisdiction Over Quasi-Military Personnel Under UCMJ Article 2(A)(8)*, 78 A.F. L. Rev. 1 (2018) (with Gabriel J. Chin)

*The Gattaca Model: Should the Military Be Allowed to Select Its Elite Forces Based Upon One’s DNA*, 13 Liberty L. Rev. 3 (2019) (with Gabriel J. Chin)

*Introduction, Problem and Finalist Briefs*, International Institute of Space Law (2007) (Finalist Brief with Magin T. Puig, and Carlos F. Laboy)

*Indicting Humanity: A Critical Examination of International Humanitarian Law In Modern Conflicts*, Forthcoming (Estimated publication 2025)

### BOOK REVIEWS

*Book Review: Islands of Law: A Legal History of the British Isles* (Richard S. Tompson), 12 USAFA J. Leg. Stud. 199 (2002)

*Book Review: The Shade of Swords: Jihad & the Conflict Between Islam & Christianity*, 9 Nationalism & Ethnic Politics, vol 4, pg 141 (winter 2004)

**SELF-PUBLISHED BOOKS (NON-LEGAL RELATED)**

ARABIC VOCABULARY MADE EASY VOLUME I (Kindle Direct Publishing 2011)

ARABIC VOCABULARY MADE EASY VOLUME II (Kindle Direct Publishing 2011)

ADVANCED FRENCH VOCABULARY MADE EASY (CreateSpace Independent Publishing Platform 2011)

**EDUCATION AND CREDENTIALS**

Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics (minor in French), magna cum laude, University of Utah - 1994

Juris Doctorate degree and Certificate in Environmental & Natural Resources Law, –  
Northwestern School of Law of Lewis & Clark College – Portland, OR 1997

Squadron Officer School, Distinguished Graduate, Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL 2003

Air Command and Staff College (correspondence), Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL 2004

LL.M. International & Comparative Law, W/Highest Honors, George Washington University 2007

Air War College (Outstanding Graduate), Air University, Maxwell AFB, AL 2009  
(Graduated # 2 of 1755 students)

**PRESENTATIONS**

*Invited to speak on Humanitarian Law, International Law, Law of War, and other specialized topics at various locations around the world -- over a period of more than 20 years. Locations include:*

***International Institute of Humanitarian Law*** (Human Rights in War) San Remo, Italy

***L'Ecole Militaire*** (Legal Advisor to War) Paris, France

***Royal Australian Air Force*** (Space Rules of Engagement) Canberra, Australia

***Royal Australian Army*** (Law of War) Darwin, Australia

***Australian Red Cross*** (International Humanitarian Law) Melbourne, Australia

***Concours Jean-Pictet*** (U.S. Interpretation of IHL) Lisbon, Portugal

***Concours Jean-Pictet*** (U.S. Interpretation of IHL) Mejjannes-Le-Clap, France

***French & Spanish Air Force*** (Refugee Law) Manas AB, Kyrgyzstan

***Royal Saudi Air War College*** (Islamic Law & Human Rights) Prince Sultan AB, Saudi Arabia

***Space Policy Institute*** (Law Pertaining to Rights of Astronauts) Washington D.C.