

## *Biography*

### **DON M. CHRISTENSEN, COLONEL, USAF (Ret.)**

**Col Don Christensen**, USAF (*ret.*) is President of Protect Our Defenders. In his role as President, Col Christensen has appeared regularly in broadcast and print media to advocate for rights of crime victims, including appearances on CNN, CBS, NBC, ABC, MSNBC, Fox News, and the BBC, in addition to the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, the *Los Angeles Times*, *USA Today*, *Time*, and *Newsweek*. He also serves as a *pro bono* attorney for victims of military sexual assault in EEO complaints, law suits under the Federal Tort Claims Act, and as a special victims counsel. He served as chief prosecutor for the United States Air Force between 2010 and 2014. Before that he served alternatively as trial counsel, defense counsel, and as a military judge for every year of his 23-year career in the United States Air Force.

Christensen has served as an Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, Area Defense Counsel, Circuit Defense Counsel, Deputy Chief Circuit Defense Counsel, and Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, as a deployed Staff Judge Advocate, Chief Circuit Trial Counsel, and Staff Judge Advocate and as a Military Judge. He has tried over 150 courts-martial as a trial and defense counsel and has presided over 100 trials as a military judge.

He was born in Sturgis, South Dakota and received his law degree from Marquette University Law School. A third generation Air Force officer, he received his commission as a second lieutenant through ROTC and entered active service on 15 July 1991. Christensen is licensed to practice law before the Supreme Court of Wisconsin.

### **EDUCATION**

- 1988 Bachelor of Science degree, *summa cum laude*, in history and speech communications, Black Hills State College
- 1991 Juris Doctor degree, Marquette University Law School
- 1996 Squadron Officer School (in residence) Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
- 2002 Air Command and Staff College (correspondence) Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama
- 2008 Air War College (correspondence) Air University, Maxwell AFB, Alabama

### **ASSIGNMENTS**

1. Jul 1991 - Mar 1994, Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, 28<sup>th</sup> Bomb Wing, Ellsworth AFB, SD
2. Mar 1994 - Jul 1995, Area Defense Counsel, USAF Judiciary, Central Circuit, Ellsworth AFB, SD
3. Jul 1995 - Jan 1998, Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, Ogden Air Logistics Center, Hill AFB, UT

4. Jan 1998 - Feb 2000, Circuit Defense Counsel, USAF Judiciary, Western Circuit, Travis AFB, CA
5. Feb 2000 - Sep 2000, Deputy Chief Circuit Defense Counsel, USAF Judiciary, Western Circuit Travis AFB, CA
6. Nov 2000 - Mar 2001, Staff Judge Advocate, 332nd Air Expeditionary Group, Ahmed Al Jaber AB, Kuwait
7. Oct 2000 - Jul 2002, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, 436th Airlift Wing, Dover AFB, DE.
8. Jul 2002 – Jul 2005, Chief Circuit Trial Counsel, USAF Judiciary, European Circuit, Ramstein AB, Germany
9. Jul 2005 – Jul 2008, Staff Judge Advocate, 325th Fighter Wing, Tyndall AFB FL.
10. Jul 2008 – Jul 2010, Military Judge, USAF Trial Judiciary, McChord AFB WA.
11. Jul 2010 – July 2014 Chief, Government Trial and Appellate Counsel Division, Joint Base Andrews MD

## **AWARDS AND DECORATIONS**

Legion of Merit

Meritorious Service Medal with five oak leaf clusters

Air Force Commendation Medal

Air Force Achievement Medal

Air Force Outstanding Unit Award with valor device and four oak leaf clusters

Air Force Organizational Excellence Award with four oak leaf clusters

National Defense Service Medal with one bronze star device

Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal

Global War on Terrorism Service Medal

Air Force Overseas Service Long Tour Ribbon

Air Force Expeditionary Service Ribbon with gold border

Small Arms Expert Ribbon

## **EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION**

Second Lieutenant	18 May 1991
First Lieutenant	15 July 1991
Captain	15 January 1992
Major	1 August 1999
Lieutenant Colonel	1 July 2005
Colonel	1 May 2010