



# Department of Veterans Affairs

## Senior Executive Biography

### **Kenneth A. Arnold**

#### **Acting Chairman Board of Veterans' Appeals**

Ken joined the Department in February 2019 and is responsible for executive oversight of the Board's Veterans Law Judges, staff attorneys and professional support staff handling veteran appeals regarding claims and eligibility for service-connected disability ratings and benefits, VA healthcare access or services, and VA cemetery or burial benefits. Immediately prior to his current role, Ken served for three years at the Department of Justice, where he was responsible for the administrative management and operational functions of the DOJ Asset Forfeiture Program, including review and evaluation of all Asset Forfeiture Program activities and oversight of nearly \$9 billion in asset forfeiture funds. His staff also provided centralized operations of forfeiture-related systems and applications used by roughly 9,000 Federal, State, and local law enforcement officers and prosecutors to account for nearly 1.5 million assets seized from criminal enterprises. Ken previously served for nearly five years as the Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Affairs at the Department of Commerce, from 2011 to 2016. He was the Chief Operating Officer and senior career executive responsible for overseeing a headquarters staff and three operating units, which accounted for approximately 25% of the Department's personnel.



Ken is a retired U.S. Air Force judge advocate who started his career when he enlisted at the age of 17. His active duty career spanned over 30 years in a wide range of assignments throughout the United States and overseas. He served as a criminal prosecutor, a defense counsel, a civil litigator, and an appellate counsel. After spending a year on Capitol Hill as a National Defense Fellow, Ken served four years as an Associate Deputy General Counsel for the Department of Defense before embarking on a variety of senior level positions which allowed him to lead several of the Air Force's largest legal offices during the last 7 years of his military career. His last military assignment was as Chief of the Air Force's General Litigation Division, where he led a team of nearly 90 attorneys and paralegals engaged in federal court litigation and administrative proceedings throughout the United States.

Humbled and honored to serve our veterans in his current role, Ken views his service at VA a bit like returning home. When Ken was a toddler, his father became a 100% disabled veteran and their family was completely reliant on VA medical care and associated benefits. Ken's wife is also a former VA nurse.

#### **CAREER CHRONOLOGY:**

Jan 2020 - Present Vice Chairman, Board of Veterans' Appeals, Washington, DC  
Feb 2019 – Jan 2020 Deputy Vice Chairman, Board of Veterans' Appeals, Washington, DC  
Jan 2016 – Feb 2019 Director, Asset Forfeiture Management Staff, Department of Justice, Washington, DC  
Jan 2012 – Jan 2016 Deputy Under Secretary for Economic Affairs, Department of Commerce, DC  
Jul 2011 – Jan 2012 Associate Under Secretary for Management, Department of Commerce, DC  
Jun 2009 – Jul 2011 Chief, Air Force General Litigation Division, Washington, DC

#### **EDUCATION:**

1992 Juris Doctorate, St. Mary's University School of Law, TX (*Magna Cum Laude*)  
1989 Master of Science, Systems Administration, St. Mary's University, TX (*Distinguished Graduate*)  
1986 Bachelor of Science in Human Factors Engineering, United States Air Force Academy, CO