75 Years of the Uniform Code of Military Justice Moira Modzelewski

RDML, JAGC, U.S. Navy (Retired), Chair, Appeal Board, Defense Office of Hearings and Appeals

Moira Modzelewski served as a judge advocate in the United States Navy from 1985 until 2018 and retired from the position of Chief Judge of the Department of the Navy/Assistant Judge Advocate General. In that billet, Ms. Modzelewski also led the Navy's career litigation track, the service's initiative to identify and develop litigation talent. Other notable late-career tours included Chief Judge of the Navy-Marine Corps Trial Judiciary and Chief Judge of the Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals. Assigned to the Office of Military Commissions Trial Judiciary from 2008– 2011, Ms. Modzelewski presided over the case of United States v. Noor Uthman Muhammed at Guantanamo Bay, and she was later appointed as an appellate judge to the U.S. Court of Military Commissions Review. At the direction of DoD General Counsel, Ms. Modzelewski has chaired two joint working groups on aspects of military justice reform: in 2016, she chaired a group that drafted sentencing parameters and criteria, and she more recently chaired a group that proposed optimal timelines for the investigation and prosecution of covered offenses. Ms. Modzelewski currently serves at the Defense Office of Hearings and Appeals as Chair of the Appeal Board. She earned both her B.A. (1980) and J.D. (1985) at the University of Virginia and is a member of the Virginia bar.

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