

## Contact

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## Top Skills

Defense

International Law

National Security

# Tahmika R.

Special Counsel at U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs  
Washington DC-Baltimore Area

## Summary

Experienced attorney and veteran US Navy officer with a demonstrated history of working in the national defense industry. Skilled in Government, Military, Veterans Affairs, International Law, Interagency Cooperation, Operational Planning, National Security, Interagency Liaison, Policy and Legal Analysis. Strong federal support services professional with a Master of Laws focused in Military and International Operations Law from The Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School at the University of Virginia Law School, Juris Doctorate from Harvard Law School, and B.A. in College Scholars with an Emphasis in Pre-Law and Political Science.

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## Experience

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Special Counsel

January 2021 - Present (2 years 10 months)

Washington DC-Baltimore Area

United States Department of Defense

Attorney

January 2016 - January 2021 (5 years 1 month)

Greater Washington DC area

National Security Attorney working with U.S. legal authorities as they are applied domestically and abroad. Also experienced with compliance matters.

US Navy, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Operations, Plans and Strategy

Deputy Legal and Oceans Policy Advisor

June 2014 - November 2015 (1 year 6 months)

Arlington, VA

Serves as subject matter expert on legal policies pertaining to world-wide operations including law of the sea, sovereign immunity, maritime security, international law, litigation concerning US naval operations, national security and foreign warship visits.

Drafts legal memoranda, opinions, and institutional policies and instructions.

Interprets and applies international agreements, international law and domestic laws and regulations to active ongoing military plans and operations, often with immediate implementation and long-term impact to national security.

#### Military, US Navy

Judge Advocate General's Corps, Lieutenant Commander  
October 2002 - November 2015 (13 years 2 months)

Judge Advocate General's Corps, US Navy

#### US Navy, Office of the Judge Advocate General, International and Operational Law

Head of Department, International Programs  
September 2013 - June 2014 (10 months)

Arlington, VA (Pentagon)

Researched, drafted, advised and assisted in negotiations of international agreements concerning personnel and information exchange programs, interagency coordination, medical and marine research, classified programs and base support agreements domestically and abroad.

Coordinated with Department of State (DOS), Office of the Secretary of Defense and numerous directors to energize a stalled research agreement with Cambodia after five years of processing.

Drafted a completely novel, highly sensitive facility and services support agreement to formalize 50-year-old ties between the United States and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization while preserving vital US interests.

Requested personally to assist Office of the Secretary of Defense and Office of General Counsel as by name request with ongoing and anticipated companion environmental litigation that threatens to shut down multi-million dollar military base relocations in Japan.

Negotiated international agreement with German counterparts as part of US Navy team for exchange of military personnel in keeping with existing agreements between the countries and anticipated future integrated training needs.

Found novel resolution and drafted international agreement to end a two-year impasse for the US Naval Academy to receive valuable exchange of students and training with a nontraditional Singaporean counterpart.

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## Education

Army Judge Advocate General's Legal Center and School  
Master of Laws (LLM), Military and International Operational  
Law · (2008 - 2009)

Harvard Law School  
J.D., Law · (1998 - 2001)

University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
B.A., College Scholars, Pre-law and Political Science · (1994 - 1998)

Harvard Law School  
Doctor of Law - JD

University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Bachelor of Arts - BA, College Scholars Pre-Law and Political Science