

## 2016 Citizen Lawyers: Gill P. Beck

**By Eric A. Mine**

ASHEVILLE – Gill P. Beck has, in a single lifetime, served our state, the nation, the international community, and our profession, often simultaneously. Inspired by President John F. Kennedy, Beck has constantly asked himself what he could do for his country, and answered with action. As Beck puts it, he believes that “the law is a noble calling, that attorneys serve the people, and that the aim of the law is justice.”

From the beginning of his legal career, he has served the United States. After graduating from Duke University School of Law, he served on active duty in the Army for thirteen years. In 1992, after leaving active duty, Beck became an Assistant United States Attorney, serving in Greensboro where he was the Chief of the Civil Division until 2013, when he moved to the Asheville office, where he works today.

After joining the Justice Department, Beck continued to serve in the Army Reserve, achieving the rank of Major General in 2011. In 2005, then Colonel Beck was deployed to Iraq, where he served as the staff judge advocate, working with Iraqi judges, lawyers, and officials with their efforts to establish the rule of law. “Their courage and commitment was inspiring and demonstrated to me the integral role of attorneys, judges, and the law to a society’s proper functioning,” said Beck.

In 2007, he was chosen to mobilize to the Pentagon to serve as Associate Deputy General Counsel in the Office of the Secretary of Defense. In his recommendation of Beck for the Legion of Merit, which he was awarded twice, the Deputy General Counsel wrote, “No other attorney in the DoD legal community can match COL Beck’s energy and selfless service.”

Beck has held a number of leadership positions with both the Bar Association and the State Bar. Since 2007, he has served at the Executive Director of the State Bar’s Legal Assistance for Military Personnel (LAMP) Committee, an organization dedicated to ensuring effective access to the legal system for military service members and their families.

During his years of service, Beck has received a great many awards for his accomplishments. But his commitment to service has always been paramount. “Lawyers in particular,” said Beck, “have an obligation to always look for ways to use their legal skills to contribute.” We congratulate him on being named a 2016 Citizen Lawyer.

*The Citizen Lawyer Committee of the NCBA Young Lawyers Division, in conjunction with the NCBA Citizen Lawyer Committee, provides expanded coverage of the 2016 Citizen Lawyer Awards in recognition of their volunteer service and leadership in their communities and beyond.*

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