

Commissioner Sean M. Connolly began his service with the Connecticut Department of Veterans Affairs on March 16, 2015. He is also a Lieutenant Colonel in the U.S. Army Reserve, currently serving with the 655th Regional Support Group headquartered at Westover Air Reserve Base, Massachusetts.

An East Hartford native, Commissioner Connolly returned home to Connecticut in 2010, joining Pratt & Whitney, first as Assistant Counsel supporting the Military Engines Division and most recently serving as Pratt & Whitney's Global Ethics and Compliance Officer. Prior to joining Pratt & Whitney, he was a Senior Associate at Greenberg Traurig, LLP in Washington, D.C. as a member of the Government Contracts and Homeland Security Practice Groups.

Commissioner Connolly also previously served on active duty for over seven years as an Army Judge Advocate in a variety of positions, most recently as a Trial Attorney with the Contract and Fiscal Law Division of the U.S. Army Legal Services Agency, litigating government contract disputes, defending bid protests, and advising on procurement fraud actions. He also previously served as Assistant Legal Advisor and Executive Officer for the Office of the Secretary of Defense, Office of the Appointing Authority for Military Commissions.

A Veteran of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Commissioner Connolly served as a Prosecutor and Brigade Legal Advisor with the 101st Airborne Division (Air Assault) at Fort Campbell, Kentucky, and in Kuwait and Iraq, where he was responsible for trying all courts-martial, non-judicial punishment, elimination boards, and administrative separation actions for two brigades and advising on operational and administrative law matters.

He also taught as an Adjunct Lecturer at the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law and served as a law clerk to Hon. H.F. "Sparky" Gierke, U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces.

Commissioner Connolly served as an elected member of the National Board of Directors of the Federal Bar Association for five years from 2006 through 2011. He also served as President of the Pentagon Chapter of the Federal Bar Association from 2004 to 2005 and now serves as an appointed member of the Federal Bar Association's National Council.

Commissioner Connolly received his undergraduate degree from Bryant University, cum laude and his Juris Doctor from the Catholic University of America, Columbus School of Law. He is admitted to the bars of Connecticut, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Army Court of Criminal Appeals, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. He is also a member of American Legion, Post 95 in Hebron, the Veterans of Foreign Wars, Post 8776 in Hebron, the 101st Airborne Division Association, the Association of the United States Army, and the Army Aviation Association of America.

His military awards and decorations include the Bronze Star Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Joint Service Commendation Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Army Achievement Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, and the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal. He is also entitled to wear the Air Assault Badge and the Office of the Secretary of Defense Identification Badge.

Commissioner Connolly is married to Carol A. Connolly, Esq. and they have two boys, Sean (8) and Brendan (6) and their rescue puppy, Lucky.