



THE NATIONAL JUDICIAL COLLEGE

Est. 1963

Benes Z. Aldana

President, The National Judicial College

On the Bench

- Chief Trial Judge, U.S. Coast Guard, 2016-2017
- Appellate judge, U.S. Coast Guard Court of Criminal Appeals, 2015-2016
- Trial judge, U.S. Coast Guard, 2005-2011

Military Assignments

- Chief Trial Judge, U.S. Coast Guard, Washington, DC, 2016-2017
- Staff Judge Advocate, Eighth Coast Guard District, New Orleans, LA, 2013-2016
- Chief Counsel/Deputy Chief Counsel, Legal Engagements Division, Office of the Legal Counsel, United States Africa Command, Stuttgart, Germany, 2011-2013
- Executive Officer, Coast Guard Base Seattle, 2010-2011
- Commanding Officer, U.S. Coast Guard Personnel Support Services Unit Seattle, 2009-2010
- Executive Officer, Integrated Support Command Seattle, 2009
- Division Chief, Personnel Services Division, Integrated Support Command Seattle, 2007-2009
- Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, Thirteenth Coast Guard District, Seattle, WA, 2005-2007
- Trial Attorney, U.S. DOJ, Environmental Enforcement Section, Washington, DC, 2003-2005
- Legal Advisor, Department of Defense Criminal Investigation Task Force, Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, 2002-2003
- Deputy Chief, Office of Environmental Law, Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC, 2001-2003
- Program Manager, Office of Legal Policy and Program Development, Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC, 1999-2001
- Appellate Government Counsel, Office of Military Justice, Coast Guard Headquarters, Washington, DC, 1997-1999.
- Staff Attorney, Command & Operational Law Branch, U.S. Coast Guard Maintenance & Logistics Command Pacific, Alameda, CA, 1996-1997
- Trial Counsel, Navy Legal Service Office West, San Francisco, CA, 1995-1996
- Staff Attorney, Claims & Litigation Branch, U.S. Coast Guard Maintenance & Logistics Command Pacific, Alameda, CA, 1994-1995

Military Personal Award and Significant National Recognition

- Department of Defense Meritorious Service Medal
- Coast Guard Meritorious Service Medal (2 awards)
- Coast Guard Commendation Medal (5 awards)
- Army Commendation Medal
- Coast Guard Achievement Medal (2 awards)
- Commandant's Letter of Commendation (2 awards)
- 2016 Judge of the Year Award, Asian Bar Association of Washington
- 2016 Department of Homeland Security General Counsel's Award of Excellence
- 2015 Daniel K. Inouye Trailblazer Award, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association
- 2011 Outstanding Chair Award, Fellows of the American Bar Foundation

- 2009 Emerging Leaders Award, Filipino Community of Seattle
- 2006 Named Fellow by the American Bar Foundation
- 2003 Outstanding Young Military Lawyer, American Bar Association
- 2003 Best Lawyers Under 40 Award, National Asian Pacific American Bar Association

Education

University of Washington School of Law, Juris Doctor, 1994

Seattle University, Bachelor of Arts in Political Science (*cum laude*) and Honors Program, 1991