



THE COMBAT VETERAN IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM ECHOES OF WAR

date

11/15/12
THURSDAY,
NOVEMBER 15

location

SANTA BARBARA JURY
ASSEMBLY ROOM
1108 SANTA BARBARA ST

time

5 TO
6:30
PM



The event is Sponsored by Santa Barbara Women Lawyers & made possible by the support of The Fielding Graduate University, The Fund for Santa Barbara, the Santa Barbara County Bar Association & Common Ground Santa Barbara.

Brockton D. Hunter, attorney and former Army Scout, has represented veterans in many high-profile cases. He drafted the Minnesota's landmark Veterans Sentencing legislation and has been recognized throughout the United States for his work on behalf of veterans in criminal courts. **The Obama Presidential Transition Team, the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs have called upon Brock for his counsel and advice**, and he has spoken to thousands of lawyers and judges on the special issues affecting veterans. He is the editor and co-author of the book, **"The Attorneys Guide to Defending Veterans in Criminal Court."**

Post-traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) has been recognized as a common side-effect of war, and more than **2.6 million Americans have served in Iraq and Afghanistan**. A recently-released government study reported that up to 20 percent (more than one-half million) veterans are suffering from the effects of PTSD. Between one-third and one-half of Vietnam veterans have suffered some long-term psychiatric issues related to their service.

Research also reveals that crimes committed by veterans follow every American military conflict. Many veterans have not been diagnosed and treated, and have been treated harshly in the criminal justice system. Forty years after the Vietnam war, hundreds of thousands of psychologically-injured veterans are incarcerated, chronically addicted and **homeless**.

This program will explore the **history of PTSD and its ties to criminal behavior, the lessons to be learned by those involved in the administration of criminal justice and demonstrate how criminal charges can serve as an opportunity to intervene with troubled veterans** and help them return to their communities as assets and not liabilities. One approach is the establishment of Veterans Treatment Courts, where intervention and treatment provide an alternative to incarceration. The veterans receive the help they need and, at the same time, public safety is enhanced.

**FREE & OPEN TO THE PUBLIC. SPACE IS LIMITED. RSVP sbwl.admin@gmail.com 451-5604
MCLE CREDIT (1.5 HRS SUBSTANCE ABUSE) AVAILABLE FOR \$15.**