

Zach Baumgarten

Director, Veterans Legal Services Clinic | William H. Bowen School of Law | zjbaumgarten@ualr.edu

EDUCATION

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, William H. Bowen School of Law *May 2021*

Juris Doctor

University of Arkansas at Little Rock, Clinton School of Public Service *December 2020*

Master of Public Service

University of Arkansas at Monticello *May 2008*

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science; Minor in Communications

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Veterans Legal Services Clinic, William H. Bowen School of Law — Little Rock, AR

Director *July 2025– Present*

- Teach law students practical lawyering skills
- Develop and implement the veteran clinic's teaching program
- Oversee law student casework on VA disability and Discharge Upgrade appeals.
- Oversee the veterans clinic's pro bono program and affiliated staff

William H. Bowen School of Law — 1L Mentorship Program *2021 – Present*

- Advise and mentor first-year law students
- Lead monthly sessions on the practice of law, navigating law school, the early years of practice, professional responsibility, and networking

UA Little Rock — COAR Veterans Treatment Court Observation Project

- Meet weekly with students working on the Veterans Treatment Court observation project

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

William H. Bowen School of Law — Little Rock, AR

Managing Attorney, *July 2025– Present*

- Manage clinic support staff
- Develop and implement clinic wide policies and procedures
- Oversee case management software and other clinic wide resources

Veterans Legal Services Clinic, William H. Bowen School of Law — Little Rock, AR

Pro Bono Program Director, *January 2023 – Present*

- Represent and advise veterans experiencing civil legal issues
- Recruit, manage, and support pro bono attorneys across the state
- Oversee program budgets and pursue new sources of funding

Center for Arkansas Legal Services — Little Rock, AR

Public Benefits / Special Projects Attorney, *April 2022 – January 2023*

- Represent veterans in VA benefit appeals and discharge upgrade cases
- Represent clients in estate planning and criminal record sealing matters
- Conduct monthly veterans' legal assistance clinics in Little Rock and Pine Bluff, AR

Center for Arkansas Legal Services — Little Rock, AR *July 2021 – April 2022*

Outreach Coordinator / Attorney

- Drafted external funding proposals for grants and private donations
- Developed and executed outreach campaigns and events for the organization
- Built and maintained relationships with community partners

Arkansas Access to Justice Commission — Little Rock, AR *January – April 2020*

Legal Extern

- Conducted data collection and analysis on issues affecting access to justice in Arkansas
- Researched and drafted recommendations for possible court rule revisions
- Used data visualization software to present statistics on access to justice issues in Arkansas

The Asia Foundation — Colombo, Sri Lanka *May – July 2019*

Summer Fellow

- Conducted a program evaluation of the Gender and Justice team's domestic violence work
- Reviewed the organization's past legal aid work and made recommendations for future programming
- Produced a final report and presentation on the police sensitizing and legal aid programs

Center for Arkansas Legal Services — Little Rock, AR *May 2018 – May 2021*

Law Clerk, AmeriCorps Veterans Legal Corps Program

- Assisted with veterans' legal clinics and community partnership meetings
- Conducted case research on VA benefits, housing, family law, and bankruptcy matters
- Drafted memos, briefs, and motions for various cases

WA State Special Commitment Center — Steilacoom, WA *July 2015 – July 2017*

Administrative Assistant

- Managed and assigned caseloads for the facility's forensic psychologists
- Assisted with research for reports authored by the forensic psychologists
- Handled general office management, including scheduling and data entry

U.S. Army — Fort Lewis, WA *March 2011 – July 2015*

Infantryman

- As Radio Telephone Operator (RTO), supported the platoon leader in planning missions and briefings
- Managed front-office operations for a company of 150+ soldiers
- Attended local, national, governmental, and coalition-building meetings with the platoon leader

Congressman Mike Ross Congressional Campaign — Hot Springs, AR *April – December 2010*

Campaign Field Coordinator

- Scheduled and coordinated public appearances and campaign events with the congressman
- Supervised and organized volunteers for campaign events ranging from 15 to 100 volunteers
- Assisted in organizing fundraisers and travel for the congressman

Office of U.S. Congressman Mike Ross — Washington, D.C. *August 2008 – April 2010*

Director of Constituent Services

- Conducted meetings with local government officials and constituents
- Supervised the daily workload of five congressional interns
- Coordinated the 2008 presidential inauguration for the congressional office, fielding over 2,500 requests and travel arrangements before and during the inaugural ceremony

PUBLICATIONS

- Closing the Justice Gap through Law School Clinics: Why Bowen's Veterans Legal Services Clinic Is a Model for Law School Pro Bono Programs (expected publication Fall 2026)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- Roundtable Participant, Law and Society Conference, San Francisco, CA, 2026 — clinical application of a court-watch program with a focus on veterans treatment courts
- Planner and Panel Moderator (“Preventing Veteran Suicide”), Veterans Law Symposium, William H. Bowen School of Law, November 2024
- Presenter, Veterans Law Presentation, VA Social Work Program, September 2024 — presented to over 60 VA social workers, doctors, and staff on VA law
- Presenter, “VA Discharge Upgrade,” Continuing Legal Education Program, June 2024
- Presenter, “Navigating the VA Appeals Process,” Arkansas Bar Association Mid-Year Conference, February 2024
- Presenter, “Pick a Lane: Navigating the VA Appeal Process,” Pulaski County Bar Association, November 2023
- Presenter, “Overview of the VA Benefits Claim Process,” Office of the Arkansas Attorney General, Veterans Day CLE, November 2023
- Presenter, “Navigating the VA Appeals Process,” Sebastian County Bar Association, Veterans Law Program, September 2023

HONORS

- 1L Mentor of the Year, William H. Bowen School of Law, 2022

LAW SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

- Staff Advisor, Outlaw Legal Society, 2022 – 2025
- Law School Senator, UALR Staff Senate, 2023 – 2024
- Member, Arkansas Veterans Coalition, 2024 – Present
- Board Member, Friends of Fisher House Arkansas, 2024 – Present
- Board Member, Arkansas Appleseed Legal Justice Center, 2024-Present
- Attorney Advisor, Disability Rights Arkansas, Mental Health Advisory Committee, 2023 – 2025
- Chair, Veterans Law Section, Arkansas Bar Association, 2023 – 2024
- Member, National Law School Veterans Clinic Consortium, 2022 – Present
- Member, National Association of Veteran Advocates, 2021 – Present

ADMITTED TO PRACTICE

- State of Arkansas, 2021
- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Accredited Attorney, 2021