

UNITED STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS

CEREMONIAL MISC. ORDER No. 03-25

IN RE: THE RETIREMENT OF CYNTHIA M. BRANDON-ARNOLD

Before ALLEN, *Chief Judge*, and PIETSCH, BARTLEY, GREENBERG, MEREDITH, TOTH, FALVEY, LAURER, and JAQUITH, *Judges*, and KRAMER, HOLDAWAY, GREENE, KASOLD, HAGEL, MOORMAN, LANCE, DAVIS, and SCHOELEN, *Senior Judges*.

O R D E R

Before the Court is the matter of the retirement of Cynthia M. Brandon-Arnold, Chief Staff Attorney and Deputy Clerk of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Ms. Brandon-Arnold joined the Court in December 1990 as a staff attorney with the Central Legal Staff (CLS). In 2006 she was selected to run that office and was promoted to Chief Staff Attorney—a position she has held for 19 years.

Having joined the Court just one year after its inception, Ms. Brandon-Arnold has been an essential and constructive part of the Court's growth and history. During her 35 years, filings at the Court have increased from approximately 2,000 annually to nearly 10,000. As a result, the Court has continually revised how to best carry out its mission to afford veterans and their families and survivors full, fair, independent, and prompt judicial review of their appeals. To that end, the Court made two significant operational changes—institutionalizing the practice of recalling retired Senior Judges to provide substantial service, and adopting the Rule 33 mandatory mediation program. CLS was integral to those initiatives, and the Court owes a debt of gratitude to Ms. Brandon-Arnold for her vision and tireless work in shepherding CLS through those changes in a manner that resulted in the tremendous success of both. In 2013, Ms. Brandon-Arnold was presented with the Court's highest honor, the Frank Q. Nebeker Award for exceptional and exemplary service.

Prior to coming to the Court, Ms. Brandon-Arnold practiced criminal law. She also served as a captain on active duty in the Army Judge Advocate General's Corps, both as an attorney in the government appellate division of the United Legal Services Agency and as a commissioner for the Army Court of Military Review. Ms. Brandon-Arnold is a proud honors graduate of Syracuse University and received her law degree from the National Law Center at George Washington University.

Ms. Brandon-Arnold is an outstanding lawyer and dedicated public servant. Her decades-long passion in collaborating on how to best address the Court's changing needs, her work in revising Court rules and policies to implement necessary changes, and her enthusiasm in serving as a moderator or panelist at countless conferences and gatherings designed to improve Court operations both internally and with the Court's bar, are but a few examples of Ms. Brandon-Arnold's contributions to improving the practice of veterans law. Moreover, her institutional knowledge, cross-departmental guidance, and strong relationships with practitioners and judges—along with her commitment to the CLS staff—reflect her deep dedication to both the office she leads and the Court as a whole.

Upon consideration of the foregoing, and as she departs to enjoy retirement, it is

ORDERED that Cynthia Brandon-Arnold will take with her our admiration and gratitude for the years of outstanding service she rendered to the Court, our admiration for her many accomplishments, the warmth of our continued friendship, and our very best wishes.

DATED: September 30, 2025

PER CURIAM.