



BIOGRAPHY



UNITED STATES AIR FORCE

COLONEL VANCE H. SPATH

Colonel Vance H. Spath is the Chief Trial Judge of the Air Force. He moved into that position in April 2014.

Col Spath received a direct commission as an Air Force Judge Advocate in January 1992 and entered active duty that same month. He has served as a Chief Regional Military Judge, Regional Military Judge, Staff Judge Advocate, Deputy SJA, Chief Circuit Trial Counsel, Circuit Trial Counsel, Defense Counsel, and Contract Trial Attorney. While assigned to Schriever AFB, CO, Col Spath deployed to both Uzbekistan and Afghanistan. Col Spath's assignments are listed below.

He is admitted to practice law in the State of New York, the United States Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and the United States Supreme Court.



EDUCATION

- 1987 Bachelor of Arts degree in Liberal Arts, Virginia Wesleyan College, Norfolk, VA
- 1991 Juris Doctor, University of Bridgeport School of Law (now Quinnipiac Law School), Bridgeport, CT
- 1990 Visiting Student, Southern Methodist University, TX
- 1994 Squadron Officer's School (by correspondence)
- 1999 Air Command and Staff College (by correspondence)
- 2001 Master of Law (LL.M.), The Judge Advocate General's School of the Army, VA
- 2007 Air War College (by correspondence)

ASSIGNMENTS

1. April 1992 – July 1994, Assistant Staff Judge Advocate (Chief of Civil Law and Adverse Actions), Ramstein AB, Germany
2. July 1994 – July 1995, Area Defense Counsel, Air Force Legal Services Agency, Ramstein AB, Germany
3. July 1995 – July 1998, Circuit Trial Counsel, Central Circuit, Air Force Legal Services Agency, Randolph AFB, TX
4. July 1998 – August 2000, Trial Attorney, Contract Dispute Resolution Team, Wright-Patterson AFB, OH
5. August 2000 – July 2001, Student, The Judge Advocate General's School of the Army, Charlottesville, VA
6. July 2001 – July 2004, Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, 50 SW/JA, Schriever AFB, CO
7. July 2004 – July 2006, Chief Circuit Trial Counsel, Eastern Circuit, Air Force Legal Operations Agency, Bolling AFB, DC
8. July 2006 – July 2009, Staff Judge Advocate, 90 MW/JA, F. E. Warren AFB, WY
9. July 2009 – July 2010, Military Judge, Western Region, Travis AFB, CA
10. July 2010 – July 2012, Chief Regional Military Judge, Pacific Region, Kadena AB, Japan
11. July 2012 – July 2013, Staff Judge Advocate, 11 WG/JA, Joint Base Andrews, MD

12. July 2013 – April 2014, Director, Training and Readiness (JAI), Joint Base Andrews, MD
13. April 2014 – Present, Chief Trial Judge of the Air Force (JAT), Joint Base Andrews, MD

MAJOR AWARDS AND DECORATIONS

Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters
Joint Commendation Medal
Air Force Commendation Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Air Force Achievement Medal with two oak leaf clusters
Joint Meritorious Unit Award
Global War on Terror Expeditionary Medal

EFFECTIVE DATES OF PROMOTION

First Lieutenant	30 January 1992
Captain	1 August 1992
Major	1 April 2000
Lieutenant Colonel	1 November 2005
Colonel	1 November 2010

(Current as of May 2014)