

Kenneth J. Allen.

Ken served as a federal government lawyer from 1976 to 2007, and in the Army (either Active or Army Reserve) from 1970 until his retirement from the Army Reserve in 2002, and in the federal civil service from 1984 until his retirement from the Civil Service in 2007.

Drafted in 1970, he served as a combat engineer and received a direct commission to Second Lieutenant, and in 1975 he was a nonvoting member of President Ford's VietNam Clemency Board. After becoming a lawyer, he was an active duty Army judge advocate, and was the successful defense counsel in the 1978 Fort Jackson "Heat Stroke" double homicides, and later served as the Chief Commissioner of the Army Court of Military Review. In the Army Reserve, his assignments included US European Command; 412th ENCOM (Fwd) Seckinheim, Germany; and Staff Judge Advocate, 315th Engineer Group. From 1996 to 2002 he was a judge advocate to the Army War College's Peacekeeping Institute, where he advised on contingency contracting; led seminars in the resident War College; and served as the senior legal controller in the Army War College's Strategic Crisis Exercises.

In his federal civil service career, he practiced law for the Army at Pirmasens and Ziewbrucken, Germany; Ft. Ritchie MD; and the Army Medical Research and Materiel Command, Ft. Detrick, MD. His assignments included Special Assistant United States Attorney with a focus on procurement fraud.

Since 1995 Ken has been a frequent speaker for government and private educators. He has addressed the American Society of Military Comptrollers, the Army War College, the Army Management Staff College, the Naval Postgraduate School (for whom he has taught since 2005 as a contract faculty), NCMA national and Chapter events, and Thomson Reuters' Contract Year in Review (2014-2017). He has authored over 40 training manuals and courses on subjects such as government contract law, federal fiscal law, trial advocacy, leadership and management, the interpretation of government contracts, contract administration and CORs, federal grants, and legal ethics. He is the author of three Thomson Reuters books, The Contract Interpretation Handbook: A Guide for Avoiding and Resolving Government Contract Disputes; How to Read a Government Contract, A Manual on Contract Interpretation for Acquisition Professionals; and Federal Grant Practice. He is the author of two recent NCMA Contract Management magazine articles, and two Thomson Reuters' Briefing Papers.

In April 2007 Ken retired from the federal government and became the general counsel of a defense contractor. He is now semi-retired, and does most of his writing and research at home in the Catocin Mountains of Maryland near Camp David.

He is a graduate of the Brandeis School of Law at the University of Louisville, the resident Army JAG School basic and advanced courses, Army Command and General Staff College, Army Management Staff College, National Defense University, and the Army War College.