

## **LCDR Bianca Barcelo, JAGC, USNR**



Lieutenant Commander (LCDR) Bianca Barcelo is a 2005 graduate of the University of Miami with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. In 2010, she received her Juris Doctor from the Antonin Scalia Law School. During law school, LCDR Barcelo was a member of the Hispanic Law Students Association and served as Treasurer and Vice- President. She was also an active member of the Virginia Bar Association's Pro-Bono Society.

In the late fall of 2011, LCDR Barcelo reported to the Legal Services Command, Norfolk, VA, with the U.S. Coast Guard, where she served as a Legal Assistance Attorney, and Claims Officer. In November of 2012, LCDR Barcelo forward deployed to New Jersey to assist members with their claims due to the damage caused by Hurricane Sandy.

In the summer of 2013, LCDR Barcelo reported to Atlantic Area, Portsmouth, VA as a Staff Attorney for the Staff Judge Advocate to the Atlantic Area Commander. Commander, Atlantic Area serves as the operational commander for all U.S. Coast Guard missions from the Rocky Mountains to the Arabian Gulf, spanning across five Coast Guard Districts and 40 states. During her time in the Hampton Roads area, LCDR Barcelo served as the President of the Association of Naval Service Officers.

In the summer of 2015, LCDR Barcelo reported to U.S. Coast Guard Headquarters in Washington D.C., where she worked in the General Law division. During her tenure with the Coast Guard, she advised senior officials, operational field units, and criminal investigators worldwide across matters such as maritime defense and security operations, criminal law enforcement, illicit trafficking operations, foreign relations, search and rescue, environmental protection, environmental crimes, fisheries violations, and enforcement of vessel and port safety/security regulations. LCDR Barcelo analyzed, reviewed, and drafted dozens of legal, policy, and litigation documents. Oversaw criminal, regulatory, and internal agency investigations and served as legal advisor to military defense and national security planning and operations.

Instructed law enforcement on use of force, rules of engagement, and evidence preparation in support of narcotics trafficking prosecutions in federal courts. Government prosecutor in 4 courts martial and 5 Article 32 hearings and 2 personnel discharge boards. Responsible for daily advice on personnel, federal ethics, civil rights, and administrative regulatory law matters. Coordinated with federal, state, and local law enforcement and prosecutors on criminal actions.

In the summer of 2016, LCDR Barcelo left active-duty Coast Guard and affiliated with the Navy Reserve. Her first Navy Reserve (and current) assignment is with the Administrative Law Unit in Washington, D.C. LCDR Barcelo mainly supports Code 16 working on combat related disability appeals.

In the fall of 2016, LCDR Barcelo joined the Library of Congress' Office of the General Counsel as an Assistant General Counsel working mainly in employment law litigation and federal ethics. In the fall of 2018, LCDR Barcelo reported onboard REDCOM San Diego as the Assistant Staff Judge Advocate where she advised the REDCOM Commander and 19 subordinate Navy Reserve Centers on military justice matters, administrative investigations and reviews MOUs and MOAs. LCDR Barcelo recently got off active-duty orders in September 2022 at REDCOM San Diego and is now working for the Library of Congress.

LCDR Barcelo is licensed to practice law in Florida and California. Her military decorations include the Navy Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Commendation Medal, Coast Guard Achievement Medal, Coast Guard Unit Commendation Ribbon, Coast Guard Meritorious Team Commendation Ribbon with two Gold Stars in Lieu of a Third, Humanitarian Service Medal, and the National Defense Service Medal.

Her professional awards include the LULAC 2020 Excellence in Service Uniformed Services Public Service Award, 2014 Department of Homeland Security Office of the General Counsel Award, 2014 Latina Style Meritorious Award, 2014 National Image Meritorious Award, and a 2014 Cuban National Council Honoree.

LCDR Barcelo currently resides in sunny San Diego, CA.