

Justin Constantine



Justin graduated from James Madison University in 1992 with a double major in English and Political Science and a minor in German, and later graduated from the University of Denver School of Law in 1998. Justin joined the U.S. Marine Corps after his second year of law school. While on active duty, Justin served as a Judge Advocate specializing in criminal law, and was stationed both in Okinawa, Japan, and at Camp Pendleton, California, where he worked as a defense counsel and criminal prosecutor.

Justin left active duty in 2004, and worked for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) for two years. As a Marine Reservist, he volunteered for deployment to Iraq in 2006, and served in the Al-Anbar Province as a Team Leader of a group of Marines performing civil affairs work while attached to an infantry battalion. While on a routine combat patrol six weeks into his deployment, Justin was shot in the head by a sniper. Thanks to his fellow Marines and the courage and skill of a U.S. Navy Corpsman, Justin survived. His personal awards from his time in Iraq include the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon, and Navy-Marine Corps Commendation Medal.

Upon recovering from his injuries, Justin started a new job with the U.S. Department of Justice, working in their Office of Immigration Litigation. In November of 2008, Justin was invited to serve as Counsel for the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. At the same time, Justin and his wife Dahlia also started Iraq and Back (www.IraqandBack.com), their own small business which featured different apparel items they designed honoring those who had deployed to Iraq and Afghanistan. Although he has wrapped up the commercial aspect of that business, he still runs their T-Shirts For Troops Campaign, where individuals and businesses buy shirts at cost, but instead of the shirts being shipped to the purchasers, they are sent down to the Wounded Warriors and their families recovering at the Brooke Army Medical Center in San Antonio.

Most recently Justin started a new job with the FBI working on a counterterrorism team. This job is a great fit for Justin because he feels that he is finally “back in the fight” and it dovetails perfectly with his professional interests. Also, Justin recently was an honor graduate of the Marine Corps Command and Staff College, and aims to pursue a graduate degree in National Security Studies next year from Georgetown University. As a Major in the Marine Corps Reserve, Justin is the Reserve Staff Judge Advocate for Marine Forces South in Miami, Florida. He serves on the Board of Directors of several nonprofit organizations, including the Wounded Warrior Project. He also serves on a 4-year Congressionally-mandated Task Force for Recovering Warriors which provides an annual report to the Department of Defense.

Over the last several years Justin has spoken to numerous military, business and school groups about the value of a positive attitude, teamwork and community values in overcoming adversity. Several weeks ago, CNN interviewed Justin and discussed the issues of veteran unemployment and post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), and he was also honored by the White House as a Champion of Change regarding veterans’ issues. Justin has been featured in magazines and programs such as Mens Health, James Madison University’s *Madison Magazine*, the Wounded Warrior Project’s *After Action Report*, the Verizon FIOS Channel 1 magazine show “Push-Pause,” and the Department of Labor’s America’s Heroes at Work Success Stories.