

# DR. EVAN R. SEAMONE

Sunrise: January 3, 1976

Sunset: July 25, 2023



Dr. Evan R. Seamone, dedicated to the law specializing in veterans' benefits, died on July 25, 2023, after a short illness. He was born in Los Angeles, CA on January 3, 1976, to Shelley Milton Seamone and Ellis E. Seamone.

The Seamone family traveled extensively (Brazil, Mexico, Hawaii) as a result of Evan's father's work as a Symphony musician and solo Timpanist. While with the opera and ballet and performing under Leonard Bernstein in "Westside Story", the family lived in the Philadelphia and New York areas. Evan's early school life was in Brentwood and Kentor Canyon, CA. The family settled in Beverly Hills, CA where Evan grew up, continued his education and eventually attended University of California, Los Angeles (UCLA). Evan graduated, Valedictorian, with an Undergraduate Degree in Sociology and a Graduate Degree in Public Policy, both from UCLA. While at UCLA he joined the US Army Reserve Officer Training Corps, graduated as a Distinguished Military Graduate and was commissioned as a 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant on July 18, 1998. With approval for delayed entry into the U.S. Army, Evan was admitted to, worked as an assistant Law School professor while completing his law degree and graduated from the

University of Iowa, College of Law. He took the Bar Exam in California and Washington, District of Columbia (DC). He was sworn in before a Congressional hearing at the U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, DC.

Perhaps Evan's admiration and motivation for military service were born out of the military stories his grandfather would tell him about the collection of hats that hung on the back of his art studio door. His grandfather worked for the Quarter Master Depot in New York and Philadelphia as Chief Illustrator after WWII. With deep respect for his grandfather, Evan would listen attentively to the military stories then return home to seriously "role play" with his "GI Joe".

Evan spent 20 years in the U.S. Army Judge Advocate General's Corps (JAGC) preparing and presenting cases as both a prosecuting and defending attorney. Recognized with superior skills and capabilities as a very young JAGC Officer, he was given some of the most high-profile cases during Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. His valor and skill earned him several awards and decorations including the Iraqi Campaign Medal with two Campaign Stars, Meritorious Service Medals, Joint Service Medals and more than a dozen other medals as well as Joint Meritorious Unit Awards.

After retirement from uniformed service, Evan completed his Doctoral Degree at Northeastern University. He then continued his passion for serving and practicing law. As an attorney he combined both, specializing in veterans' benefits law and responsiveness of legal systems to veterans and their families. He became a Fellow with the National Institute of Military Justice and a member of the National Institute of Corrections' Justice-Involved Veterans Network. He represented Veterans in his capacity as the Visiting Director, Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Clinic, University of Florida, Levin College Law. Just prior to this, Evan was a staff attorney at the Veterans Legal Clinic at the Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School where he provided legal services to underserved veterans in the community, including incarcerated veterans throughout the State of Massachusetts.

At the time of his death, Evan was a legal and policy advisor to the national Veterans Justice Commission, Council on Criminal Justice, led by former Secretary of Defense, Chuck Hagel. Evan was so proud of this work and this opportunity to serve. He often stated it was the most important work being done in the justice involved veteran space in the last fifty years.

Evan was also the General Counsel and Legal Manager at Trajector, Inc., a family of companies devoted to helping persons with disabilities obtain the benefits they medically, ethically, and legally deserve. At Trajector, Evan played a pivotal role as Authorized House Counsel, offering invaluable guidance to the Board, healthcare experts, executives, and employees concerning an array of legal matters. His legacy also includes the creation of practical training modules, explaining intricate tenets of privacy law for a diverse staff with differing depths of knowledge and expertise.

Evan has written extensively about VA disability benefits for traumatic events including Military Sexual Trauma, race discrimination, and Sexual and Gender Identity (SGIM) discrimination. He recently published the book *Rescuing Soldiers of Misfortune: A Full-Spectrum Approach to Veterans in the Criminal Justice System from Arrest to Reentry* (Charles C. Thomas Publisher, LTD.). As the Vice Chair of the Military Issues Committee of the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, he was actively

involved in the development of a standardized curriculum to assist family court judges in better understanding the unique needs of military families. Evan is a member of the Bar of the U.S. Supreme Court, the District of Columbia Court of Appeals, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans' Claims.

With Evan's completion of a Doctorate in Law and Policy, his dissertation addressed the goal of obtaining disability compensation for minority veterans who suffered mental wounds from discrimination while in service.

Evan was preceded in death by his father, Ellis E. Seamone, and is survived by his devoted mother, Shelley Milton Seamone. His mother must be credited with nurturing Evan in the most unique way that only a mother, also a schoolteacher of several languages including Hebrew as well as an artist, could possibly be able to manage.

Evan is also survived by his beloved Max, his loyal companion and protector. Evan rescued Max and Max protected Evan. Evan was a huge fan of memorable quotes. Here is one for Evan and Max: "You can usually tell a man is good if he has a dog who loves him." by Bruce Cameron



A service is planned for Evan at 1:00 PM, Pacific Time, on August 21, 2023 in Los Angeles, California with Interment in the Los Angeles National Cemetery.

The family wishes, instead of flowers, that donations be made to the Dr. Evan Seamone Memorial. Please send to:

Council on Criminal Justice  
ATTN: Mrs. Shelley Seamone  
700 Pennsylvania Avenue  
Washington, DC 20003