



Combat Veterans Courts

Leave No Veteran Behind

Evening Program – University of Kansas

The wars in Iraq and Afghanistan have taken an unprecedented toll on our men and women in uniform. While most return home strengthened by their service, far too many struggle in their effort to readjust to life outside the military. Often mental health issues are compounded by substance abuse, family strife, unemployment, and homelessness; ultimately leading to incarceration. The evening program at the University of Kansas will examine the national and local responses to the plight of veterans within the criminal justice system.

Melissa Fitzgerald is the Senior Director for Justice for Vets, a nonprofit created to help transform the way veterans are handled in the criminal justice system. As an actor, Fitzgerald is best known for her seven-year role as Carol on the NBC smash hit *The West Wing*, but off-screen, she is widely recognized as a courageous advocate for people in need. In 2011, Melissa co-executive produced *Halfway Home*, a documentary featuring Vietnam veteran and former U.S. Senator Max Cleland and Silver Star recipient and Iraq and Afghanistan veteran, Sgt. Tommy Rieman joining other veterans in recounting their experience in war and their struggle to reintegrate and recover upon returning home.



Melissa Fitzgerald with the West Wing cast.

BG Stan Cherrie served two assignments in Vietnam and earned the Silver Star while suffering serious injuries after stepping on a landmine. Despite losing his leg, he remained on active duty and commanded Soldiers in Kuwait and Bosnia.



Art Fillmore is a corporate business attorney with Levy & Craig. A decorated veteran, Fillmore is the co-founder of Heart of America Stand Down Foundation, which organizes over 100 private, government and faith-based organizations in donating their time and resources to offer a hand-up to local veterans in the Kansas City area.



Dr. Mitchell Flesher is the Veterans Justice Outreach Specialist for the VA Eastern Kansas Health Care System. A licensed psychologist, Flesher assists veterans avoid the unnecessary criminalization of mental illness and extended incarceration by ensuring that Veterans have timely access to VHA services as clinically indicated.



Tuesday, OCT 21, 7:00PM

Woodruff Auditorium, KU Memorial Unions

Free to public – reception following program



With Moderator
Professor Michael Hoeflich
Distinguished KU Professor of Law

Sponsored by:

