



ROSSABI LAW PARTNERS  
ROSSABI REARDON KLEIN SPIVEY, PLLC

February 7, 2020

From: Gavin J. Reardon

To: Members of the Bar, 24<sup>th</sup> Judicial District and 24H Judicial District

**Dear Friends and Colleagues of the 24th and 24H Judicial Bars:**

I am presently running in the Democratic primary for Judge Cummings' open seat. I hope you will support me in that race. I also hope you will vote for me to fill the remainder of that term. That vote will tell the primary voters who the Joint Bar thinks is the best-qualified candidate to take that seat for a full four-year term.

I believe that I am—by far—the most qualified candidate for this position. I have been an attorney for over 25 years (22 years more than my opponent in the primary). I graduated in the top 5% of Tulane Law School where I was a Senior Fellow and Senior Managing Editor of the Law Review.

In the Marine Corps, I both prosecuted and defended many hundreds of criminal cases. At various times, I ran prosecution and defense shops. I also served as “Staff Judge Advocate” (which is somewhat akin to a DA). In 2005-2006, I oversaw all legal operations in Al Anbar Province in Iraq. From 2006-2008, I served as a Special Assistant U.S. Attorney in the Middle District of Georgia prosecuting all federal crimes occurring on the Marine Corps Base.

I also often performed several quasi-judicial functions (somewhat akin to an administrative law judge) such as being an “Article 32” investigating officer or a Summary Court Martial Officer (i.e., the judge in low level criminal trials). One of my proudest accomplishments was how often both sides mutually requested that I be appointed. On several cases, my appointment was actually a condition to the plea deal because both sides trusted they'd get a fair hearing with a fair result.

Overall, while in the Marine Corps, I supervised and mentored scores of junior attorneys and oversaw thousands of matters from minor offenses to major felonies such as rape and attempted murder. I have continued to mentor and supervise junior attorneys in my civilian practice.

My private practice has included criminal matters (infractions, misdemeanors and felonies), but has been mostly a very wide-range of civil litigation. I have

practiced in dozens of district and superior courts around the State (and other states), and I have won cases from small claims court up to the NC Supreme Court. I have practiced in every federal district in NC and won cases at the US Fourth Circuit.

I've constantly sought to expand my knowledge because I absolutely love the law. I am one of fewer than 35 NC Board Certified Appellate Specialists. Appellate law requires you to read thousands of cases on virtually all aspects of the law. The focus is always on the law and what the attorneys or the judge got right or wrong. Appellate practice shows you the minefields and gives you the map to avoid them.

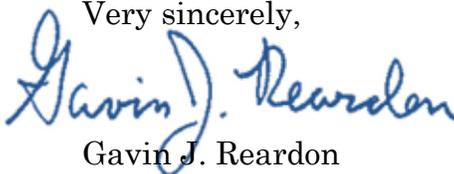
I want to be the kind of judge that makes every litigant feel that—win or lose—they were heard. The kind of judge that attorneys look forward to appearing before. The kind of judge I have enjoyed practicing before. Most importantly, I want to do absolutely everything I can to ensure that *everyone* (criminal defendants/victims/civil parties) receive a fair hearing and equal justice under the law.

If given the opportunity to serve as one of your judges, I would:

- Bring a broad knowledge, and love, of the law;
- Be grateful for the chance to hear your case;
- Be on time and make myself available outside courtroom hours;
- Allow you to try your case;
- Not be offended by attorneys making the record for appeal;
- Do the work to get things right—and be willing to correct things when I get them wrong;
- Not be afraid or hesitant to make tough decisions;
- Use my knowledge of appeals to keep cases “between the lines”;
- Be prompt in getting written orders out;
- Be fair and courteous to all parties; and
- Never take myself too seriously.

Mostly, though, as a judge, I would just try to treat everyone in court the way I'd want to be treated. I hope to have that opportunity and ask for your support.

Very sincerely,



Gavin J. Reardon

P.S. More information is available at [www.reardon4judge.com](http://www.reardon4judge.com). I would also welcome the opportunity to speak with you directly at any time by phone (336.944.2452) or email ([greardon@r2kslaw.com](mailto:greardon@r2kslaw.com)). Thanks!

# Gavin J. Reardon

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## Education & Certifications

**North Carolina State Bar Board Certified Appellate Practice Specialist** (2016)

**North Carolina Bar** (1994); **South Carolina Bar** (2016)

**Boston University, LLM (Tax)**, May 1999. 3.47 GPA.

**Tulane Law School, JD magna cum laude**, May 1994. 15<sup>th</sup> of 319 (Top 5%).

- Senior Managing Editor, Tulane Law Review
- Member, Tulane Environmental Law Journal

## Experience

**Partner, Rossabi Reardon Klein Spivey PLLC**, Greensboro, North Carolina (May 2016 - Present).

- General litigation and business practice. Act as counselor to a wide-range of businesses and individuals for tax and business matters. Advise and advocate for clients in all forums. Federal white collar and tax crime defense. Minor infractions and offenses (usually on *pro bono* basis).
- Handle all of the firm's appeals.
- Provide over \$100,000 of *pro bono* services since 2016, including multiple major tax cases for "innocent taxpayer" spouses, which saved multiple women their homes and retirement funds.

**Associate, Rossabi Black Slaughter, PA**, Greensboro, North Carolina (April 2008 - May 2016).

- Handled a wide range of business and general litigation matters and tax disputes.
- Made several successful arguments to the Court of the Appeals for the U.S. Fourth Circuit, the North Carolina Supreme Court, and the North Carolina Court of Appeals.

**Staff Judge Advocate, Marine Corps Logistics Command**, Albany, Georgia (May 2006 – Jan. 2008).

- Similar to a corporate general counsel, a Staff Judge Advocate is the primary legal adviser to the Commanding General and his unit, on a broad range of topics, including military justice, government ethics, FOIA/Privacy Act, and federal procurement law.
- Supervised the prosecution or other disposition of all military criminal matters.
- As Special Assistant United States Attorney, prosecuted all federal crimes occurring on base.
- Performed mandatory review for legal sufficiency and fairness of all courts-martial, administrative separations, and other adverse legal or administrative actions.
- Ensured command compliance with state and federal regulatory law.

**Deputy Staff Judge Advocate, II Marine Expeditionary Force**, Camp Lejeune, NC (Nov. 2004 – Aug. 2005), **II Marine Expeditionary Force (Forward)**, Camp Fallujah, Iraq (Aug. 2005 – April 2006).

- Primary legal adviser to the Commanding General of the Multinational Force - West (Al Anbar Province, Iraq) on all Operational Law and Law of War issues.
- Directed the prosecution of major crimes in a combat zone.
- Ensure compliance with the Rules of Engagement and laws of armed conflict.
- Awarded Bronze Star medal for meritorious achievements.

**Corporate & Securities Associate, Schell Bray Aycock Abel & Livingston, PLLC**, Greensboro, North Carolina (Sept. 2003 – Nov. 2004 and Aug. 2000 – Jan. 2002).

- Advised clients, researched issues, and drafted a wide variety of documents relating to regulatory compliance, and to the acquisition, sale, management and financing of businesses.

**Judge Advocate Individual Augment, II Marine Expeditionary Force**, Camp Lejeune/Marine Corps Air Station New River, Jacksonville, North Carolina (Jan. 2002 – Sept. 2003).

- Selected over several senior judge advocates to urgently fill the following critical short-term assignments in the active force that were caused by the rapid deployment of key personnel to Cuba, Afghanistan and Iraq.

**Director, Marine Corps Air Station Joint Law Center** (Dec. 2002 – Sept. 2003).

- Principle legal adviser to 23 military commands assigned to the Air Station.
- Directed the operations of a full-service Law Center and Tax Center.

**Special Prosecutor, 2d Legal Service Support Section** (May. 2002 – Dec. 2002).

- Successfully assumed prosecution of complex drug conspiracy and officer cases from judge advocates deploying to Afghanistan.

**Staff Judge Advocate, 2d Force Service Support Group** (Jan. 2002 – May 2002).

- With one-week's notice, left private practice to replace Staff Judge Advocate who was deploying to establish detainee center at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.
- Eliminated a six-month backlog of administrative separations and directed successful prosecution of rape, drug distribution, and firearms cases.

**Assistant Staff Judge Advocate, U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic**, Norfolk, Virginia (May 2000 – Jan. 2002).

- Served as Marine Corps Reserve legal adviser to the Commanding General of all Marine Forces in Europe, Africa, South America, and east of the Mississippi.

**Business Associate, Carruthers & Roth, P.A.**, Greensboro, North Carolina (Sept. 1999 - Aug. 2000).

- Practiced in areas of Estate Planning, Taxation, Tax Controversies, and Business Transactions.

**Assistant Professor, Boston University/Technical Instructor, Massachusetts Institute of Technology** (Mar. 1997 - Sep. 1999).

- As "Marine Officer Instructor" served as primary academic adviser to over 200 midshipmen in the Navy ROTC program at MIT, Harvard, Tufts, Boston University, and Boston College.
- Taught History, Leadership and other Military/Naval Science courses.

**Chief Trial Counsel, Marine Corps Air Station New River** (Mar. 1996 - Mar. 1997).

- Lead prosecutor or supervising attorney in all major legal actions aboard the air station.
- Trained junior attorneys in ethics, trial advocacy, evidence, and case management.
- Awarded Navy Commendation Medal for reducing average processing time of cases by 50%.

**Defense Counsel, Marine Corps Air Station New River** (Oct. 1994 – Mar. 1996).

- Attorney of record for Marines and Sailors in all adverse proceedings; including courts-martial, nonjudicial punishments, and administrative separations.
- Responsible for all phases of criminal defense including client counseling, pretrial negotiations, grand jury equivalent, depositions, motions practice, trial, and post-trial clemency appeals.