

## **John N. Maher, Esq.**

John N. Maher is a former partner with the international law firm of Duane Morris in its Chicago office. While a partner, he was nominated to serve as the General Counsel for the US Office of Personnel Management in Washington DC during the Administration of President George W. Bush. In that senior executive service position, he was the chief legal officer for the personnel department of the federal government.

After active-duty Army service in Germany with the 1st Infantry Division and a criminal prosecutor with 42 trials as first-chair, he deployed as legal advisor to US forces during a United Nations Peacekeeping mission to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (FYROM) to prevent the spread of ethnic cleansing to a post outside Skopje, Macedonia as part of the United Nations Preventative Deployment Force. The Army sent him to Washington DC to become an appellate defense counsel, and John ended his active-duty career on September 6, 2001, walking out of the Pentagon and accepting a civilian position as a Trial Attorney with the US Department of Justice's Civil Division, Commercial Litigation Branch, National Courts section. Five days later, on 9/11, he decided to stay in the US Army Reserve.

While at the DOJ, he defended executive agencies of the federal government in bid protest and government contracts disputes before the US Court of Federal Claims and the US Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. He also represented the Department of Commerce and the Department of Labor before the Court of International Trade in New York City in international trade matters.

After a short time with Steptoe and Johnson in Washington DC, John returned to Chicago and joined the litigation department of Mayer Brown, LLP, where he served clients in commercial litigation in matters involving Sprint-Nextel, Oracle, George Westin Bakeries, telecommunications, confidential witnesses, and white-collar defense.

Throughout, John continued military service as a member of the US Army JAG Corps Reserve, with mobilizations to Kabul to serve as the Chief of Contracts and Fiscal Law, to the Defense Intelligence Agency as the Deputy General Counsel for Procurement, and to the Defense Appellate Division. Most recently, he was the Deputy Commander of the 8th Legal Operations Detachment outside Kansas City, was the Deputy Staff Judge Advocate for the 416th Theater Engineer Command in Darien, Illinois, a team leader for the 91st Legal Support Organization on Fort Sheridan, Illinois, and an action attorney with the 10th Legal Services Organization on Andrews Air Force Base, Maryland.

In 2013, he returned to Afghanistan as a civilian to serve as the program manager at the Justice Center in Parwan, Afghanistan, leading the team of American and Afghan attorneys and law enforcement professionals to prosecute the Taliban, terrorists, and insurgent fighters under internal Afghan national security laws.

From Chicago, John holds a BS, JD, LL.M, MBA, and a Master of Strategic Studies from the US Army War College in Carlisle, Pennsylvania. He has published several articles, taught for the John Marshall Law School on the adjunct faculty, for Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University (classroom and developing online courses), and currently teaches on the law faculty and the MBA faculty at NIU.

After a mid-career MBA, he started three companies: Maher Legal Services, PC; Maher Funeral Services, LLC in Tinley Park, Illinois; and Misbah Maher Consultancy, LLC, the latter with offices in Geneva, Illinois and Kabul, Afghanistan. In his law practice, he defends military personnel accused of crime in

combat, defends federal employees facing discipline, does estate planning, and federal habeas corpus litigation among small business consulting.

A former member of the Board of Directors for United American Patriots, a 501(c)(3) that defends military personnel accused of crime in combat, John makes his home in Geneva, Illinois together with Kathryn (whom he met in MBA school).

His work was featured recently in Don Brown's Book "Travesty of Justice," Stephen Soderbergh's six-part series on the STARZ network call "Leavenworth," and he led the teams who secured two pardons from the President of the United States, the first in November 2019 on behalf of US Army First Lieutenant Clint A. Lorange and the second in December 2020, on behalf of former Marine and Blackwater security official Dustin Heard.