

Summer 2013

Re: Major Mary Jennings Hegar Speaker Recommendation

It is with great pleasure that we write to recommend Major Mary Jennings Hegar as a speaker for your future event. This past June, we had the honor of having Major Hegar as our keynote speaker at the 5th Annual Veteran's Conference held at the University of Maryland Francis King Carey School of Law. The conference is co-sponsored with the Homeless Persons Representation Project and the Pro-Bono Resource Center of Maryland along with Veteran's Affairs and Military Law Committee of the Maryland State Bar Association, the ABA Commission on Homelessness & Poverty and the Veterans and Military Law Section of the Federal Bar Association. Our annual conference brings in local attorneys, law students, and veterans in the Baltimore-Washington area and presents topics that are relevant in the military and veteran's community. Major Hegar spoke to an audience of more than 80 people on the topic of women in combat and then served on a panel.

Major Hegar's first-hand experience in combat provides her with direct insight on the topic and a unique ability to tell a story that on someone with first-hand accounts could be able to tell. As our keynote speaker for the event, Major Hegar was everything we could have hoped for and more. Engaging, professional, knowledgeable and the story of an American hero – although she would be the last to admit this – sums up the presentation perfectly. A true expert in her field with own personal inspirational story for men, women and older teenagers considering the military profession.

Major Hegar maintained the perfect balance between seriousness and humor throughout her address. She is personable in a way that allows audience members to relate, even if those members come from completely different perspectives and experiences. She raises questions and issues that are relevant and provides insight that is unique to those issues. The topic of women in combat could easily instigate strong responses on both sides of the argument. Major Hegar anticipated and even welcomed oppositional responses and addressed them in a manner that was professional and knowledgeable.

As co-sponsors, we would highly recommend Major Hegar as a speaker to your event and would be honored to attend another event at which she speaks.



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