



**Special Assistant to the General Counsel
National Guard Bureau
Brigadier General
Jaime A. Areizaga**



Brigadier General Jaime A. Areizaga serves as Special Assistant to the General Counsel (GC) of the National Guard Bureau (NGB), where he is the primary advisor to the GC in support of the Army National Guard Title 32 legal force, which is comprised of 54 National Guard organizations located in the 50 States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the Territories of Guam and the U.S. Virgin Islands. In 2022, Brigadier General Areizaga mobilized for six months as the Principal Deputy General Counsel at NGB, serving as the GC's main deputy and NGB's senior Judge Advocate.

Brigadier General Areizaga commissioned as a Second Lieutenant upon completing the Hoya Battalion ROTC Program and graduating from Georgetown University's School of Foreign Service in 1991. Following an educational delay and his graduation from Stanford Law School, he joined the Judge Advocate General's Corps and the District of Columbia Army National Guard (DCARNG). Brigadier General Areizaga began his military legal career as a Legal Assistance Judge Advocate followed by assignments as Defense Counsel, Senior Defense Counsel, and Staff Judge Advocate of the DCARNG. He later served as Commander of the 352d Trial Defense Service Team and of the NGB Legal Support Office. In 2018, he mobilized for three years to serve as the Chief of the Army National Guard Trial Defense Service, a 218-Soldier strong formation across all 54 National Guards.

As a civilian, the Honorable Jaime Areizaga-Soto serves as the Chairman of the Board of Veterans' Appeals, a position to which he was nominated by President Joseph R. Biden and confirmed unanimously by the U.S. Senate in August 2022. He started his civilian legal career by practicing international law for twelve years with large U.S. law firms, including eight years in Brazil, focusing on cross border infrastructure finance. He later served as a White House Fellow at the Treasury Department and also as the Senior Attorney Advisor at USAID's Office of the General Counsel. In 2014, the Governor of Virginia appointed him as the Deputy Secretary of Veterans and Defense Affairs, a post he held until 2022.

Brigadier General Areizaga earned his Juris Doctorate from Stanford Law School. He also holds a Master of Science in Hemispheric Defense and Security from the Inter-American Defense College (IADC) at Ft. McNair, a Master of Arts in Latin American Studies from Stanford University, and a Magister in Defense and Security of the Americas from the National Academy of Political and Strategic Studies of Chile. He is fluent in Spanish, Portuguese, and French, and conversational in Italian. Brigadier General Areizaga, born and raised in Puerto Rico, lives in Arlington, Virginia.