

Adam Thurschwell



Adam Thurschwell is General Counsel for the Military Commissions Defense Organization in the United States Department of Defense. He has also served as the office's Capital Resource Counsel; a member of the defense team for Ammar al Baluchi, one of the defendants in the 9/11 conspiracy case; and co-counsel in *Hamdan v. United States*, the successful appeal from the first trial held by military commission. He was named one of America's 50 Outstanding General Counsel by the National Law Journal in April 2016.

Prior to joining the office in June 2008, Thurschwell taught law at American University's Washington College of Law and Cleveland State University College of Law. Since joining he has also taught at Georgetown University Law Center as a Visiting Professor.

While teaching, Thurschwell maintained an active practice as a capital criminal defense lawyer, representing clients in federal death penalty cases and consulting with the defense in numerous other federal and state capital prosecutions. Along with his other cases, he took two years off in 1996 to serve on the court-appointed defense team for Terry Nichols in the Oklahoma City bombing case, *United States v. Timothy McVeigh and Terry Lynn Nichols*.

Thurschwell is the author of numerous academic articles on Continental philosophy, capital punishment and other subjects, and has spoken often at academic and professional conferences and seminars. Prior to entering law teaching, he was a white-collar criminal defense attorney in New York City and, before that, a civil rights attorney in Philadelphia. Thurschwell is a graduate of Yale College and the University of Pennsylvania Law School.

He has two children and lives in Washington, DC.