

LT Ryan J. Sylvester, JAGC, USN

LT Ryan Sylvester is a Judge Advocate (lawyer) in the U.S. Navy. He is a native of Little Falls, Minnesota. He completed a Bachelor of Science in Mass Communications (1998) as well as a Master of Science in Educational Leadership (2002) at Minnesota State University Moorhead; a Master of Science in Global Affairs (2007) at New York University; a Master of Arts in National Security and Strategic Studies at the U.S. Naval War College (2018); and a Juris Doctorate (2011) at Fordham University School of Law. He is currently working toward a Master of Science in Strategic Intelligence at the National Intelligence University.



LT Sylvester is currently assigned to the General Counsel's office with the National Security Agency/Central Security Service but starting in July 2019 he will be assigned as the Officer in Charge for Region Legal Service Office – Europe Africa Southwest Asia branch office in Bahrain. His prior assignments include: U.S. Fleet Cyber Command/U.S. TENTH Fleet; Office of the Judge Advocate General Code 18 (Intelligence, Cyber, and Information Operations Law); Command Judge Advocate, USS EMORY S. LAND (AS 39); Policy Advisor, U.S. Department of Defense (DoD) Undersecretary of Defense for Policy (Oceans Policy); Defense Counsel, Defense Service Office North in Washington, DC; and Trial Counsel, Legal Assistance Attorney, and Command Services Attorney at Region Legal Service Office Naval District Washington in Washington, DC. LT Sylvester was competitively selected to participate in an inter-agency three-year cohort program from 2014-2017 to study Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) issues through the National Defense University's Center for the Study of WMD – Program for Emerging Leaders.

During law school LT Sylvester interned with the Sierra Leone Mission to the United Nations headquarters in New York, the U.S. Department of State's Foreign Service Institute (Political Training Division), a U.S. District Court Judge in the Eastern District of New York, the U.S. DoD Office of General Counsel (International Affairs), and Fordham's International Human Rights Law Clinic - Sierra Leone Project Team. In 2010 he was selected for a David L. Boren - National Security Education Program fellowship to study in Cairo, Egypt during his fall 3L semester. He was also a Research Assistant to Professor Eric Jensen working on The Law of Armed Conflict: An Operational Approach (Aspen Casebook 2012).

Prior to law school, LT Sylvester had a career as a university administrator for eight years. From 2003-2007 he was the Community Development Educator for Weinstein Hall at New York University. From 1999-2003 he was an Area Director responsible for Nelson/Grantham/Holmquist residence halls at Minnesota State University Moorhead.