

Durward Elton Johnson

ATTORNEY · AI SYSTEMS OPERATOR · LTC, U.S. ARMY JAG (RET.)

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Elizabethtown, Kentucky

A credentialed attorney and Naval War College faculty member — published on autonomous-weapons command-and-control and cyber operations — who now architects and ships production, Claude-native AI for legal, defense, and compliance teams.

BAR ADMISSIONS

Kentucky — No. 101547 (2026)

Arizona — No. 023694 (2005)

U.S. Supreme Court (2010)

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces (2011)

EDUCATION

LL.M. — TJAG Legal Center & School (2014)

J.D. — Loyola Law School, Los Angeles (2004)

B.S. — University of Texas at Austin (1998)

ILE — Army Command & General Staff College (2017)

SERVICE & HONORS

Combat veteran — Operation Enduring Freedom (Afghanistan, 2009–10) & Operation Iraqi Freedom; 300+ operational-law investigations.

Legion of Merit · Bronze Star Medal · Meritorious Service Medal (4) · Army Commendation Medal (4) · Afghanistan Campaign Medal · Air Assault Badge

FEDERAL CONTRACTING



Unify Theory LLC — SBA-certified SDVOSB & VOSB. UEI WXPZRRP43NJ3 · CAGE 20FQ7 · SAM Active NAICS 541512 (primary) · 541511 · 541611 · 541715 · 541990

POC contracts@unifytheory.com

EXPERIENCE

Principal · Unify Theory LLC

2026 – Present

Claude-native AI advisory, implementation, and expert engagements for teams in regulated environments.

Founder & AI Systems Operator · Breckenhaven LLC

2025 – Present

Multi-brand venture running end-to-end on production Claude SDK, a custom MCP toolchain, and scheduled autonomous agents.

Deputy Staff Judge Advocate · V Corps, U.S. Army

2023 – 2025

Fort Knox, KY · Poznań, Poland

Chief of Military Justice · III Corps & Fort Cavazos

2021 – 2023

Associate Director & Military Professor · Stockton Center, U.S. Naval War College

2019 – 2021

Managing Editor, *International Law Studies* · Course Director, Law of Armed Conflict

Prior U.S. Army JAG service

2005 – 2019

Brigade Judge Advocate, 25th ID · Expert Litigator, TCAP · Operational-Law OCT, JMRC · Trial Counsel, 4th ID (Afghanistan)

SELECTED PUBLICATIONS

Maintaining Command and Control (C2) of Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems — 27 Sw. J. Int'l L. 1 (2021) (with John Cherry)

Responding to Hostile Cyber Operations: The "In-Kind" Option — 97 Int'l L. Stud. 96 (2021) (with Michael N. Schmitt, general editor of the Tallinn Manual)

Responding to Proxy Cyber Operations under International Law — Cyber Defense Review (Fall 2021) (with Michael N. Schmitt)

The Rules of the Game: Great Power Competition and International Law — Joint Force Quarterly 106 (2022)

Additional in *Lawfare*, *Just Security*, and *Articles of War*.

NOTABLE TRIAL EXPERIENCE

Co-counsel with primary responsibility for expert-witness preparation and rebuttal in three landmark military-justice prosecutions, each resulting in conviction (incl. *U.S. v. SSgt. Robert Bales*).