



Biography

DEFENSE COMMISSARY AGENCY

1300 Eisenhower Avenue,
Fort Lee, Virginia 23801-1800

Christina Colla Director of Legislative Affairs



Christina Colla is the Director of Legislative Affairs for the Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA), responsible for maintaining favorable and influential representation of the agency with Congress, the Department of Defense (DOD), the military departments/services, other governmental agencies, other DOD resale entities, advocacy groups and trade associations on all agency issues. Her selection was effective Dec. 18, 2023.

In this position, Ms. Colla serves as the Agency Director's representative with all government entities, defense advocacy groups and trade associations. She is responsible for collecting and providing information on proposed policy and on the status of policy proposals in progress. Ms. Colla is also charged with identifying and assessing executive political environments, and formulating, coordinating and conducting DeCA financial and budget-related business with DOD, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of Treasury.

Before joining DeCA, Ms. Colla was the Assistant Chief of Policy for the United States Marshals Service (USMS) in Arlington, Virginia, from 2020 to 2023, where she was responsible for the creation and execution of more than 300 agency policies, SOPs, and policy memoranda. While there she spearheaded a complete overhaul of the policy review process, which led to a more efficient method, ensuring that all necessary parties were part of the process.

In 2021, while attending the Executive Master in Policy Leadership Program at Georgetown University, Washington, D.C., Ms. Colla collaborated across multiple agencies to boost COVID-19 vaccination rates across lower-income wards in the city. She led an interdisciplinary team with areas of expertise in healthcare, education, finance, and law to use tools from Lean Six Sigma to evaluate DC Health's vaccination process. Her team developed an alternate process allowing residents to arrive at vaccination sites, be registered on site, and get vaccinated the same day. Their project increased access, optimized data tracking to increase availability, and provided alternatives ways to vaccinate over 100,000 residents, including those with disabilities and restricted transportation.

From 2016 to 2020, Ms. Colla served as Plans and Policy Supervisor, Headquarters Marine Corps (HQMC), Quantico, Virginia. There, she was the command's subject matter expert for program-related training, inspections, and site visits, leveraging a deep knowledge of legal and regulatory guidance related to sexual assault incidents, counseling and medical support situations, law enforcement actions, records and database management requirements and training.

Prior to her assignment at the USMS, Ms. Colla served as a command sexual assault response coordinator for U.S. Marine Corps Community Services. In this position, she provided guidance and direction for a team of 25 assigned uniformed victim advocates to ensure an integrated and transparent capability and system accountability for 24/7 support and services for over 12, 500 active-duty personnel, 24,000 family members, and 21,000 contractors and civilians who reported as victims of sexual assault.

Ms. Colla is a U.S. Navy veteran, having served on active duty from 2002 to 2006 as a hospital corpsman in various locations such as Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

EDUCATION

Doctorate, Public Administration, Northcentral University, Alameda, California

Executive Master in Policy Leadership, Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.

Juris Doctorate, Quinnipiac University School of Law, Hamden, Connecticut

Bachelor of Science, Healthcare Administration and Ethics, Charter Oak State College, New Britain, Connecticut

CAREER CHRONOLOGY

2023 - Present, Director of Administrative and Legislative Affairs, Defense Commissary Agency Headquarters and Support center, Fort Lee, Virginia

2020 - 2023, Assistant Chief, Office of Policy, U.S. Marshals Service, Arlington, Virginia

2016 - 2020, Plans and Policy Supervisor, U.S. Marine Corps Community Services, Quantico, Virginia
2014 - 2015, Command Sexual Assault Response Coordinator, USMC Community Services, Quantico, Virginia
2013 - 2014, Law Clerk, Victoria Gentile, ESQ, New Milford, Connecticut
2002 - 2006, U.S. Navy, Hospital Corpsman serving in various locations such as Iraq and Guantanamo Bay, Cuba

AWARDS AND HONORS

Navy Achievement Medal (2005)
Joint Service Achievement Medal (2003)
Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Civilian Service (three awards)
Navy Commendation Medal
Army Commendation Medal
Navy Achievement Medals (four awards)
Military Outstanding Volunteer Service Medal
Joint Meritorious Commendation Medal (2003)
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary Medal (2003)
Global War on Terrorism Service Medal (2005)
Letters of Commendation (2 awards)

CERTIFICATIONS

Lean Six Sigma Black Belt
Project Management Professional
Credentialed Victim Advocate, NOVA

(Current as of July 2025)