

## **Michael St. Denis**

Michael St. Denis, J.D., is a distinguished attorney, military veteran and a current student in the Virtual Academic Center at the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work. He began his career in the US Army, where he attended Airborne and Ranger Schools, and was selected to attend the US Army Special Forces Program—the Green Berets—where he commanded a Special Forces A-Team. After five years with the US Army, he returned to Los Angeles and attended Loyola Law School while working for the Honeywell Corporation. After completing his law degree in 1989, he joined the legal firm, Sheppard, Mullin, Richter & Hampton, where he was a business trial lawyer for 12 years and served as Partner in the Litigation Section. He went on to found his own law practice, where he spent an additional 12 years as a business trial lawyer.

In 2016 he realized he was at a place in his life where he wanted to give back, and entered the USC Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work's MSW program with a Military Social Work option. Intending to focus on social work policy for veterans and their families, he is also in the school's Community, Organization and Business Innovation (COBI) program. He begins his clinical work at USC's Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans and Military Families in May 2017. He is also a member of USC's Phi Alpha Honor Society.

Born in Orange County, Michael grew up in India, Nigeria, Thailand, El Salvador and Korea while his father worked as a Diplomat in the American Embassies of those countries. He received a bachelor's degree in Political Science and History from UCLA in 1980, where he was also in the Army ROTC program and named the Distinguished Military Graduate in 1980. He is married with 4 children, one of whom is currently serving with the US Army in a Cavalry Unit overseas.