

**Thursday, 20 December 2018, at 10:00 a. m.**  
**The United States Navy-Marine Corps Court of Criminal Appeals Courtroom**  
**1254 Charles Morris Street SE, Bldg. 58, Suite 320**  
**Washington Navy Yard, DC 20374**

*United States v. Watkins*, NMCCA No. 201700246

**Before Panel 3 of the Court: Chief Judge Woodard**  
**Senior Judge Fulton**  
**Judge Crisfield**

**For Appellant: LT Daniel Rosinski, JAGC, USN**

**For Appellee: LT George Lewis, JAGC, USN**

A general court-martial composed of members with enlisted representation convicted the appellant, contrary to his pleas, of two specifications of violating a lawful order in violation of Article 92, UCMJ one specification of committing a lewd act upon a child in violation Article 120b, UCMJ; and one specification of obstructing justice in violation of Article 134, UCMJ. The members sentenced the appellant to five years confinement, reduction to paygrade E-1, and a dishonorable discharge. The convening authority approved the sentence as adjudged, and, except for the dismissal, ordered the sentence executed.

The issue to be argued before the court is as follows:

- I. Did the military judge err in denying civilian defense counsel's motion to withdraw as appellant's counsel?
- II. The Sixth Amendment guarantees an accused the right, within limits, to retain counsel of his own choosing. Before trial, and after his civilian counsel moved to withdraw from the case citing a perceived conflict, the appellant asked to release his civilian counsel and hire a different one. Did the military judge err by denying this request?