

ELIZABETH VASSEUR-BROWNE

ASSOCIATE, COOLING & HERBERS, PC

PRACTICE: Commercial litigation/trial practice specializing in aviation law and insurance defense.

SERVICE BRANCH: Air Force

BACKGROUND: The skies have been a very friendly place to Elizabeth Browne. She joined the Air Force when she was just a teenager. After basic training, Browne began a 20-year career in USAF Command and Control that would take her all over the globe, from London to Okinawa, Japan. She recalls fondly the excitement of being a young person abroad. One particularly memorable moment occurred while on active duty in Turkey, where she was awarded an "incentive flight" in an F-111F fighter jet (given to Air Force personnel as a reward for exemplary service). "I had the time of my life. That experience inspired me to fly, and started my interest in aviation."

In fact, aviation has been a part of her life ever since. After retiring from the Air Force as a Senior Master Sergeant, she attended law school at Hofstra University. During law school she interned with the Federal Aviation Administration, and she now practices at a firm specializing in aviation law. Like Browne, many of her fellow attorneys are also pilots.

Browne was deployed during the first Gulf War, experiencing firsthand the difficulties of military life. Serving her country, particularly in a time of war, is a point of immense personal pride. However, like many of the people profiled, the most difficult part of her military service was the wartime duty where she was separated from her family for 15 months.

"To be successful in the military, you need passion for what you do, strong organizational skills, ability to work with people from diverse backgrounds and experiences, and the ability to multi-task." Browne credits her lengthy military career for instilling these skills, which she uses every day in her practice.

