Office of Military Commissions:
ISN 10013 Ramzi bin al-Shibh
Voir Dire of Judge Col. Thomas P. Hynes
December 17, 2025

Biography:
Col. Thomas P. Hynes was detailed to *United States of America v. Ramzi bin al-Shibh* by Col. Matthew S. Fitzgerald, the Chief Trial Judge of the Military Commissions Trial Judiciary, on July 24, 2025.[1] Judge Col. Hynes was drawn from the United States Army, where he has served as a military judge for the eighth (Europe, Middle East, Africa, Southwest Asia) and second (Fort Bragg, NC) judicial circuits. Prior to functioning as a judge, he served as a trial counsel (rule of law attorney) in Afghanistan and had originally been commissioned to serve as an intelligence officer performing undisclosed missions. His medals include the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, and the Parachutist badge.[2]

VOIR DIRE:[3]

Question:	Answer:
What contact have you had with Col. Pritchard?	Judge Hynes has only talked to Col. Pritchard while he was on active duty, and he only reached out to determine if the judge was interested in being part of the military commissions. All interaction has been in terms of logistics and administration.
What is your expected workload within the military commissions, and will you be able to work around your second circuit duties to fulfill it?	Judge Hynes noted that he was initially told he would be overseeing commissions hearings 2-3 weeks per quarter. He is in control of his multi-month scheduling order and will be certain to fulfill both the military commissions and the second circuit courts.
Did Col. Fitzgerald say why he wanted to detail you to these proceedings?	Judge Hynes said that the only thing Col Fitzgerald had communicated was that there was a need for an extra judge because this case had been severed from another case.
Have you any pre-formed opinions about the 9-11 perpetrators or the accused?	Judge Hynes has formed no opinions about the perpetrators of 9-11.
Have any friends, family members, acquaintances, colleagues, or superiors expressed interest in or opinions about the military commissions?	Judge Hynes says that nobody has said anything or expressed any interest, other than to ask, “Oh, that's still going on?”

1 Fitzgerald, Col. Matthew “AE 001 U: Memorandum for Colonel Thomas P. Hynes, USA,” Military Commissions Trial Judiciary (OMC-TJ), Office of the Secretary of Defense. Alexandria, U.S.A., 2025. Last Accessed in database at https://www.mc.mil/ on January 12, 2026.
2 Hynes, Col. Thomas “AE 001 V: Biography, United States Army, Colonel Thomas P. Hynes,” Military Commissions. U.S.A., 2025. Last Accessed in database at https://www.mc.mil/ on January 12, 2026.
3 As of January 12, 2026, the judge's written answers to voir dire questions remain noted in the https://www.mc.mil/ database but not declassified and posted, and there is no evidence of the transcript from December 17, 2025, when voir dire occurred. As a result, all voir dire questions and answers are reconstructed from observer notes.

Were you ever deployed to the Middle East?	Judge Hynes was deployed to Afghanistan as part of the 82nd Airborne and operated there as a trial counsel and a rule-of-law attorney.
Did you ever advise on detainee operations or were you ever called upon to investigate troops killed in terroristic actions?	No.
Have you ever performed as defense counsel in any case?	No.
Are you currently pursuing or interested in employment with the Department of Justice outside of the military?	Judge Hynes currently has no plans to retire, so he has no plans to pursue any careers in military retirement and is not courting any employment. If this changes, he will inform the parties.
When were you in Afghanistan?	Judge Hynes was in Afghanistan from May 2009 to June 2010.
Do you know General Martins (ret.) or any of the other Army personnel formerly or currently involved with the trial or defense counsel in this case?	Judge Hynes recalls possibly having met General Martins, once, but he never worked for or socialized with him.

Neither trial counsel nor defense counsel chose to challenge Judge Col. Thomas Hynes for cause on December 17, 2025, though the defense counsel reserved the right to challenge at another time.