



Mary Lou Keener Senior Vice President



PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE:

Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer Hershel Gober & Associates

Manager of a Service Disabled Veteran owned small business.

- Consult with clients who wish to do business with the Federal Government.
- Advise clients in areas of Federal procurement, regulations, and legislation.
- Assist clients in setting up meetings with Federal officials.
- Represent clients before Government Departments and Agencies and members of Congress.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Force Management and Personnel Department of the Air Force - The Pentagon, Washington, DC

Nominated by the President and appointed by the Secretary of the Air Force to provide guidance, direction, and oversight of plans and programs affecting Military and Civilian Personnel, Military Health Care, and Morale, Welfare and Recreation.

- Member, Army and Air Force Exchange Service (AAFES) Board of Directors: Eighth largest retailer in U. S. with 3,000 stores worldwide.
- Member, Defense Commissary Agency (DeCA) Board of Directors: Over 300 grocery stores worldwide serving military members and their families. Provides savings of 27% on food bills.

General Counsel

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs - Washington, DC

Nominated by the President and confirmed by the Senate as the Chief Legal Officer of the second largest Federal Cabinet Department. Hands-on manager of all Department legal activities including a 702-person nationwide legal staff and an annual operating budget of 46 million dollars.

- Issued 103 precedent opinions on Department issues including, but not limited to, veterans bene-fits, medical malpractice, contracts, and health care-related claims.
- Personally coordinated and participated in the drafting of the Department's section of the President's 1994 health care reform legislation.
- Promoted and assisted in implementation of the complete reorganization of the General Counsel field staff. Streamlined DVA's legal operations from 52 to 23 offices nationwide representing a potential Government savings of 6.1 million dollars over 5 years.
- Initiated (prior to the President's mandate) and directed Department-wide regulatory





reform project.

- Advanced Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) efforts in Department by furthering educational initiatives and ADR client activities among legal staff across the country.

Certified Mediator, Supreme Court of Virginia

Mediator, DC Superior Court Multi-Door Program, Small Claims Division

Practicing Attorney - Atlanta, GA

Keener & Associates

Independent trial law practice with an emphasis on medical malpractice and health related claims.

Conducted all phases of medical malpractice litigation.

Managed hundreds of Dalkon Shield claims in class action lawsuit.

Personally coordinated all claims preparation and presentation.

Sought out by other firms to assist with medical malpractice trial preparation.

Butler & McDonald

Responsible for preparing all medical malpractice cases for trial including discovery, motions, and witness preparation. Assisted senior partner in voir dire and as second chair in several trials resulting in significant verdicts for the Plaintiff.

Mack, Caldwell, Steckel & Nelson

Labor and Employment Law, Associate

Executive Director

Georgia Nurses Association

Responsible for management of statewide professional nursing association.

- Reversed negative membership trend.
- Restructured headquarters' organization and staff; rejuvenated legislative, public affairs, and by-laws committees.
- Developed grant proposal and obtained \$250,000 grant for new GNA Headquarters building from the Atlanta Woodruff Foundation.
- Initiated lobbying effort and established GNA presence at the State Capital by hiring the first, full-time lobbyist; also, hired the first Economic and General Welfare staff person to represent nurses in labor union activities and contract negotiations.

Assistant Professor

Georgia State University

Provided clinical and didactic instruction to students in baccalaureate nursing program.

Congressional Staff Caseworker

Staff Office of Congressman D.W. Riegle, Jr. - Washington, DC

- Independently managed all constituent casework.





EDUCATION:

Juris Doctorate (J.D.)

Catholic University of America Washington, DC

- Law Review Note Editor.
- Winner, 1980 National Moot Court Regional Competition.

Masters Degree in Nursing (M.N.) Emory University

Atlanta, GA

- Major in Community Health Nursing, minor in Mental Health.
- Designed, conducted, and published research study on Community Mental Health.

Bachelor of Science Degree in Nursing (B.S.N) Catholic University of America

Washington, DC

BAR ADMISSIONS:

- State Bar of Georgia
- Maryland State Bar
- District of Columbia

MILITARY SERVICE:

United States Navy -Active Duty

Staff and charge nurse

- U.S.S. Naval Hospital -Philadelphia, PA
- U.S.S. Repose -South Vietnam

United States Air Force Active Duty

- Activated for three months in support of Operation Desert Storm at Eglin Air Force Base, FL

United States AF Reserves

Flight Nurse

- Dobbins AFB, GA
- Andrews AFB, MD

Mobilization Augmentee

- Chief Nurse, Malcolm Grow Medical Center, Andrews Air Force Base, MD
- U.S.A.F. Chief Nurse, Bolling AFB, DC
- Retired, Colonel, USAFR

AWARDS AND APPOINTMENTS:

- Board of Directors, Army and Air Force Exchange Service
- Board of Directors, Defense Commissary Agency
- Department of Veterans Affairs Exceptional Service Award
- Catholic University of America Alumni Association Award for Outstanding Achievement in the Field of Law and the Courts
- Salute to Nurses in Congress and the Executive Branch by the American Nurses Association and the American Association of Nurse Executives





- Agent Orange Class Assistance Program Advisory Board
- Trustee, Vietnam Veterans Institute
- State Bar of Georgia, Medico-Legal Conference Committee
- Board of Directors, Georgia Underwriting Association
- Georgia Governor's Commission on Obstetrics
- Board of Directors, Atlanta Vietnam Veterans Business Association
- Chairman, Georgia Vietnam Veterans Leadership Program
- Department of the Air Force Exceptional Service Award
- Board of Directors, Military Order of the Purple Heart Service Foundation

