SHIN & KIM

Young-Hoon Kim

Partner

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Mr. Young-Hoon Kim is a partner at Shin & Kim, specializing in defense and the defense industry, national and public contracts, military-related criminal and disciplinary matters, and a wide range of legal advisory services.

Mr. Kim was the first Air Force long-term judge advocate appointed through the 2008 Korean Bar Examination, and has served in various key judicial positions within the military, including Military Judge at the Air Force Court, Chief Prosecutor of the Air Force High Prosecutors' Office, and Chief Public Defender of the Military Court. In 2022, he was appointed as the inaugural Chief Prosecutor of the Air Force and became the youngest colonel across all branches of the Korean Armed Forces, underscoring his deep expertise and unique insight in the specialized field of military law.

In 2019, Mr. Kim became the first military judge advocate to serve as an Administrative Officer in the Office of the Legal Secretary to the Senior Presidential Secretary for Civil Affairs at the Blue House, where he was responsible for providing legal advice on national defense and security matters, including those related to the defense industry, for about two years. He also served for many years as a judge advocate, where he was responsible for matters related to defense capability, defense industry, military logistics, facilities, and national property at the Ministry of National Defense and the Air Force, through which he developed a broad network and extensive experience in national defense and defense industry matters.

During his tenure as the inaugural Chief Prosecutor of the Air Force, he led major institutional reforms, including the planning and introduction of the Air Force's AI-based case management system and the establishment of the Air Force Prosecutors' Soldiers Committee. He also strengthened the military's rule-of-law framework through extensive training, counseling, and grievance-resolution programs for service members. Drawing on his extensive public-sector and defense-related expertise, he continues to provide comprehensive and practical legal advice at Shin & Kim.

Professional Career

2026-Present	Legal Advisor, Defense AX Council 30

	Legal Advisor on Human Rights Matters, ROK Army I Corps
	Legal Advisor, Defense Agency for Technology and Quality (DTaQ)
	Member, Disciplinary Committee, National Commission for the Investigation of the October 29 Itaewon Disaster and Prevention of Recurrence
2025-Present	Shin & Kim LLC
2024-2025	Head, Task Force for the Establishment of the Next-Generation Military Justice System, Defense Information Systems Agency (DISA)
2022-2023	Inaugural Chief Prosecutor of the Air Force
	Promoted to Colonel, the youngest across the Army, Navy, and Air Force (Dec. 1, 2022)
2021	Chief Prosecutor, Air Force High Prosecutors' Office
	Head, Human Rights Education Team, Air Force Human Rights Wing Center
2019-2020	Administrative Officer, Office of the Legal Secretary to the Senior Presidential Secretary for Civil Affairs, Blue House
2018	Director, Legal Affairs Division, Air Force Headquarters
	Military Prosecutor, Joint Civil–Military Investigation Team on the Defense Security Command Allegations
2016-2025	Chairperson and Member, Disciplinary Committees and Military Personnel Appeals Review Committees, Ministry of National Defense and Air Force
2015	Chief, Air Force General Prosecutors' Office
2013	Chief Public Defender, Air Force Court
2011, 2008	Legal Advisor on Defense Capability, Military Logistics, and Facilities, Office of Legal Affairs, Ministry of National Defense
2009-2010	Military Judge, Air Force Court
2008	Commissioned as a career Air Force Judge Advocate (Captain) (First appointee through the Korean Bar Examination)
2008	Judicial Research & Training Institute of the Supreme Court of Korea

Key Experience

- Won a lawsuit on the revocation of a disciplinary disposition (reprimand) against a military officer
- Won a lawsuit on an application for the stay of execution of a disposition of dismissal against a military officer
- Served as counsel in a criminal case on alleged assault by a military officer against a sentry (suspension of prosecution and disposition of reprimand)
- Provided advice on an application for a change in military service classification for an active-duty soldier
- Provided advice on military consultation about offshore wind power projects around the Korean Peninsula
- Served as counsel in multiple criminal cases or lawsuits on disciplinary actions in connection with violations of the Military Criminal Act, Criminal Act, Medical Service Act, etc.

- Served as counsel in a lawsuit on a claim for settlement payment for a weapon system for a defense contractor
- Served as a counsel in an appellate trial on a lawsuit relating to liquidated damages for a defense contractor
- Served as counsel in a lawsuit on a claim for unjust enrichment in connection with a project to enhances the Defense Medical Information System
- Provided legal advisory services for multiple defense contractors under retainer agreements on a regular basis
- Served as counsel in a medical malpractice lawsuit on a claim for compensation for damages
- Served as counsel for a Supreme Court appeal relating to violations of the Financial Investment Services and Capital Markets Act

Education

2013-2014	University of Southern California School of Law (LL.M.)
1999-2005	Seoul National university, College of Law (LL.B.)

Qualifications

2008	Admitted to bar, Korea

Languages

Korean, English

Professional Activities

- A Study on the Improvement of Sanctions Against Unfair Contractors under the Defense Acquisition Program Act (2024)
- Misconceptions and Realities of the Air Force Prosecutor’s Office: Insights from the Inaugural Chief Prosecutor of the Air Force (2023)

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