People ask frequently whether our society is ready to address the problems arising from PTSD in returning veterans. My question is: “Who bears the primary responsibility?” When veterans appear in court, it is, in a sense, too late -- too late to provide them with a smooth, successful transition to civilian life. They need help at that point in dealing with their medical and mental health problems along with all the other problems they face. Their problems are enormously complicated as the high suicide rate indicates. Many deal with various types of trauma including MST – Military Sexual Trauma. We cannot ignore the fact that these problems will remain with us for years -- decades -- to come.

Justice Schaller recently retired as an Associate Justice of the Connecticut Supreme Court. As a retired Justice and a Judge Trial Referee, he continues to hear cases at the Connecticut Appellate Court and to mediate cases in the court system. He received his B.A. from Yale College in 1960 and his J.D. from Yale Law School in 1963. After practicing law for ten years, he was appointed to the Connecticut trial bench in 1974, the Appellate Court in 1992, and the Supreme Court in 2007.

In addition to his faculty position at Trinity, he teaches appellate practice and procedure as a Clinical Visiting Lecturer at the Yale Law School and is a visiting lecturer in the Graduate Liberal Studies Program at Wesleyan University. At the Yale Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics, he has been an active member of working groups in neuroscience, public health, and human research ethics. His first book, A Vision of American Law: Judging Law, Literature, and the Stories We Tell, was published in 1997 (paperback edition, 2001) and received the Quinnipiac College School of Law Book Award. His next book, Understanding Bioethics and the Law: The Promises and Perils of the Brave New World of Biotechnology, was published in November, 2007. His most recent book, Veterans on Trial: The Coming Court Battles Over PTSD, was published by Potomac Books in June, 2012.

There will be plenty of time for questions and answers.