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#### Contact Info:

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## Center for Ethics & the Rule of Law Keynote: Mental Health Injury as a Cost of War

Time: 4:00pm - 6:00pm

Location: Golkin 100, Michael A. Fitts Auditorium

Keynote Panel Discussion: [Dr. Edna Foa](#), [Dr. Charles Hoge](#), [Mr. Eric Newhouse](#), [Dr. Steve Xenakis](#)

### Please RSVP below

The financial burdens of post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) alone on U.S. economy are estimated to range in the billions of dollars. The financial toll of PTSD does not account for the full societal and moral impact of mental health-related combat injuries. Those suffering from PTSD and traumatic brain injury (TBI) often have difficulty finding gainful employment, are prone to violent outbursts and substance abuse, experience marital problems and exhibit suicidal tendencies. These behaviors have a disruptive effect on veterans' spouses, extended families, and communities as well. In addition, recent research suggests that PTSD is heritable through multiple generations, further expanding the long-term effects and costs of the condition. Further, psychological harm related to the conduct of hostilities impacts civilians, particularly women and children, increasing the collateral costs of war. Taking these and other consequences of combat trauma into account within traditional Just War Theory presents significant challenges for civilian and military leadership. Should mental health costs to service members and civilians in areas of conflict be included in the calculations of governments contemplating whether to engage in an armed conflict? Should battlefield commanders assess potential mental harms to civilians as part of the proportionality analysis of "collateral damage" conducted prior to each military engagement? Are mental harms commensurable with physical damage? By what metric they be included in an assessment of the costs of war?

*This program has been approved for 2.0 ethics CLE credits for Pennsylvania lawyers. CLE credit may be available in other jurisdictions as well. Attendees seeking CLE credit should bring separate payment in the amount of \$40 (\$20 public interest/non-profit attorneys) cash or check made payable to The Trustees of the University of Pennsylvania.*

### Register for this event

Center for Ethics & the Rule of Law Keynote: Mental Health Injury as a Cost of War

\* # Attendees:

\* First name:

\* Last name:

\* E-mail address: