



NVLSP

NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

DEFENDING EARNED BENEFITS

★ 2014 Highlights:

Nehmer v. United States: Ongoing Monitoring Efforts

This year NVLSP has continued to monitor the VA's compliance with the landmark class action lawsuit, *Nehmer v. United States*, which requires the VA to pay benefits to Vietnam-era veterans who may have been exposed to the toxic defoliant known as Agent Orange. In the past few years, NVLSP has discovered and corrected thousands of errors for these class members, resulting in over \$30 million in additional benefits for these deserving veterans and survivors!

NVLSP Webinar Series

Starting in 2014, the National Veterans Legal Services Program began hosting webinars to educate attorneys and veterans advocates on strategies for securing disability benefits for their clients. This new initiative has been a great success, with over 600 veterans advocates from all across the country participating in one of the fifteen trainings held this year. The following topics were covered:

- Secondary Service Connection
- Most Common VA Errors
- Agent Orange Claims - Common VA Errors
- Tips on Winning Individual Unemployability

For information about future webinars, visit:

www.nvlsp.org/store/webinars

Over
\$30 Million
In Corrected Errors

**Over the Last Two
Decades:**

\$4.5 Billion

In retroactive disability and death benefits to hundreds of thousands of Vietnam veterans and their surviving family members.

"Without the help of NVLSP, I would have given up...I don't know of any other organization that is providing that level of legal advice to help veterans receive the benefits that they are entitled to."

-Matthew Goldberg,
US Army Special Forces
November, 2013

NVLSP.ORG



CFC #80966

New Initiatives Launched by NVLSP's Lawyers Serving Warriors Program®

NVLSP's Lawyers Serving Warriors® program offers pro bono (that is, free) legal help with disability issues to veterans from all eras. In 2014, Lawyers Serving Warriors® launched two new initiatives:

The Department of Defense's Integrated Disability Evaluation System

NVLSP has launched a new program to provide free legal representation to service members being medically processed through the Department of Defense's Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES). This is the system administered by each military service branch through which injured or ill service members are reviewed by medical evaluation boards (MEBs) and physical evaluation boards (PEBs).

Assistance for Survivors of Military Sexual Trauma

Through an Equal Justice Works Fellowship sponsored by Raytheon and Kirkland & Ellis LLP, NVLSP will train pro bono attorneys on how to effectively represent Military Sexual Trauma survivors with their VA claims, connect survivors with essential expert legal representation, and mentor pro bono attorneys throughout the claims process.

American Legion Crisis Command Centers



Photo by Lucas Carter, The American Legion

In June 2014, in response to the VA medical and claims backlog scandals, the American Legion invited NVLSP to help them conduct their "Town Halls and Crisis Command Centers." Veterans in various cities across the country were invited to consult with NVLSP and The American Legion representatives to help them expedite their claims or medical care. As a direct result of these efforts, veterans received a total of nearly a million dollars in additional benefits.



"I just hope NVLSP keeps helping other veterans the way they helped me."

-Richard Gilgenbach
Vietnam Veteran, US Army
November, 2013

"I will always be grateful for being put in touch with NVLSP, it has helped me enormously in my life."

-Leslie Clayton
Widow of US Navy Veteran
November, 2014

Support NVLSP Today!

Support our work by donating online at:

[www.nvlsp.org/
contribute/donate-online](http://www.nvlsp.org/contribute/donate-online)