



National Veterans Legal Services Program

Pro Bono Program
Lawyers Serving Warriors®
2025 Report

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NVLSP Staff

“
Behind these numbers are
powerful, life-changing
outcomes.”



Each year, the dedication of our pro bono partners raises the bar in the pursuit of justice for our nation’s veterans. This year is especially meaningful as we celebrate the 45th anniversary of the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) and the enduring impact of our Lawyers Serving Warriors® (LSW) program.

In 2025, our pro bono partners achieved a new milestone, providing an extraordinary 129,000 hours of legal assistance, valued at more than \$125 million. This record-breaking level of support reflects the unwavering commitment of our staff, partner law firms, and corporate legal departments across the country.

Behind these numbers are powerful, life-changing outcomes: veterans securing long-overdue benefits, families gaining financial stability, and service members accessing the care and recognition they have earned. The impact of this work extends far beyond individual cases, it restores dignity, instills hope, and reinforces our collective responsibility to those who have served.

As we reflect on 45 years of advocacy, we are proud of how far we have come—and mindful of the work that remains. With the continued partnership and dedication of our pro bono community, we remain steadfast in our mission to ensure that every veteran receives the justice and support they deserve.

Thank you for your continued partnership. We look forward to building on this momentum and making an even greater impact in the years ahead.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Paul Wright", with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

Paul Wright
Executive Director
National Veterans Legal Services Program

“

Thousands of disabled veterans will receive the full compensation they earned through their service and sacrifice.

”

For 45 years, NVLSP has been driven by our mission to ensure that veterans receive the benefits they have earned through their military service. As we celebrate this milestone, we honor the volunteers, donors, and pro bono partners who make our work possible. The 2025 NVLSP Lawyers Serving Warriors® (LSW) Pro Bono Report highlights another incredible year of impact by our pro bono partners in securing benefits for veterans.



On June 12, 2025, in NVLSP’s first decision on the merits before the U.S. Supreme Court, the Court unanimously ruled in favor of a class of more than 9,000 disabled veterans represented by NVLSP and Sidley Austin LLP who were wrongly denied their full retroactive Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC). The Court held that there is no six-year limit on retroactive CRSC payments. As a result, thousands of disabled veterans will receive the full compensation they earned through their service and sacrifice.

In addition, in 2025, LSW set a new record by placing 659 matters providing full scope direct representation to veterans. This builds on 2024, when we set a record with 630 placements, more than 140 above 2023. We also reached a major milestone in 2025 with 2,160 brief services, limited scope reviews, and project placements, compared to 1,463 in 2024.

We are deeply grateful to our pro bono partners for their work in 2025 and look forward to continuing our efforts together to help more veterans receive the benefits they deserve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Rochelle Bobroff". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Rochelle Bobroff
Director of Lawyers Serving Warriors®, Pro Bono Program of the
National Veterans Legal Services Program

Our Mission

The National Veterans Legal Services Program is an independent, nonprofit, veterans service organization that has worked since 1981 to ensure that the government delivers to our nation's 18 million veterans, active duty personnel and their families the benefits which they have earned because of disabilities resulting from their service to our country.

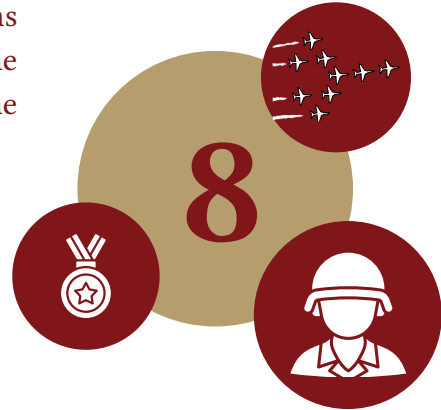
What We Do

The National Veterans Legal Services Program's Pro Bono Program, Lawyers Serving Warriors® (LSW), assists service members and veterans with applications for benefits, both at the Department of Defense and the Department of Veterans Affairs. Keep reading for the most common types of cases we handle.



Medical Retirement

Medical retirement from the military occurs when a service member has a physical and/or mental disability that significantly interferes with their ability to perform military duties. The condition must be severe enough to be considered "unfitting." Multiple disabilities can be included, and the total disability rating must be 30% or more. Medical retirement benefits include monthly tax-free military disability payments, medical care through TRICARE for the veteran and their spouse for life, TRICARE for the veteran's dependents, and a military retiree ID card that grants access to military bases and amenities. Veterans who were improperly denied a medical retirement can appeal by filing a brief at the Board for Correction of Military or Naval Records. LSW pro bono volunteer attorneys prepare a 12 to 15-page brief and evidentiary support. If unsuccessful, these cases may be appealed to federal court.



Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)

Retired veterans are eligible for an additional tax-free monthly benefit if their disabilities result from serving in combat. Pro bono volunteer attorneys assist veterans in completing the Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) application form and submit a 5 to 10-page brief with evidence demonstrating the veteran's disabilities meet the statutory definition of "combat-related." CRSC is an extra payment in addition to any military disability retirement pay and/or VA disability compensation the veteran may be receiving each month.

What We Do



Discharge Upgrades

LSW volunteer attorneys help veterans apply to upgrade their characterization of service, for example from “Other Than Honorable” (OTH) to a more favorable characterization such as Honorable or General (Under Honorable Conditions). This upgrade can help veterans receive VA benefits and health care, improve employment opportunities, and restore their reputation and self-esteem. Many veterans served through this project have Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injuries (TBI), or other mental health conditions related to military service, or are survivors of Military Sexual Trauma. Pro bono volunteer attorneys prepare a 10 to 15-page legal brief for submission to a Board for Correction of Military Records or a Discharge Review Board. When applying to a Discharge Review Board, pro bono attorneys may advocate for the veteran at a virtual personal appearance hearing.



Systemic Reform Projects, Amicus Briefs and Comments

Systemic reform projects are an integral component of LSW pro bono partnerships. These projects include research memos, flyers, manuals, and FOIA requests, as well as systemic litigation. Volunteers also assist NVLSP with appellate amicus briefs and comments on proposed regulations.



Discharge Upgrade File Review

Many veterans apply to NVLSP for free legal assistance to upgrade their discharge characterization. To help NVLSP screen these applicants, pro bono volunteers conduct file reviews for veterans awaiting case screening. NVLSP screens each applicant to determine if there is a meritorious argument before referring the matter to a pro bono partner.

The discharge upgrade file review project involves volunteers reviewing and analyzing veteran files to expedite NVLSP's screening process. This primarily administrative task can be completed by attorneys or non-attorneys. Volunteers create a Word table or Excel spreadsheet cataloging the client files and return the work product within about one month. The project is remote and can be completed anywhere. The estimated time commitment is 10-15 hours per project, and volunteers may work in teams.

What We Do



Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance Traumatic Injury Protection Program (TSGLI)

LSW pro bono attorneys represent traumatically injured service members and veterans seeking TSGLI benefits. This benefit provides short-term financial assistance in the form of lump sum payments ranging from \$25,000 to \$100,000. LSW's program—the first and only TSGLI pro bono assistance program in the country—offers free legal assistance and representation to TSGLI applicants filing initial claims or appeals.

LSW volunteer attorneys help traumatically injured service members and veterans obtain medical and lay evidence, complete claims and appeals forms, and draft 10 to 15-page briefs demonstrating the applicant's entitlement to TSGLI benefits. Volunteers may also assist applicants in challenging denied claims directly in federal court, engaging in litigation to obtain improperly denied benefits.



NVLSP Equal Justice Works Fellow Sean Wojciechowski (L) and NVLSP Staff Attorney Matthew Handley attended the Special Operations Command Warrior Care Program (SOCOM) Expo in 2025. Handley is a former Equal Justice Works Fellow.



Appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals

LSW pro bono attorneys file appellate briefs for veterans at the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA). Volunteer attorneys have approximately 90 days or less to write a 10-page legal brief and gather relevant medical and lay evidence in support of the veteran. Common issues include service-connected disabilities related to military service, earlier effective dates for benefits, or higher disability ratings. BVA Remand matters do not involve oral arguments. Volunteers working on BVA Remand appellate briefs must apply for VA accreditation or already be accredited to work on these matters.



Equal Justice Works Fellowship

Latham & Watkins is sponsoring an Equal Justice Works fellowship at NVLSP that focuses on assisting wounded, injured, and ill Special Operations Command service members and veterans with Department of Defense benefits.

\$125M

NVLSP's life-changing pro bono work was valued at over \$125 million in 2025.

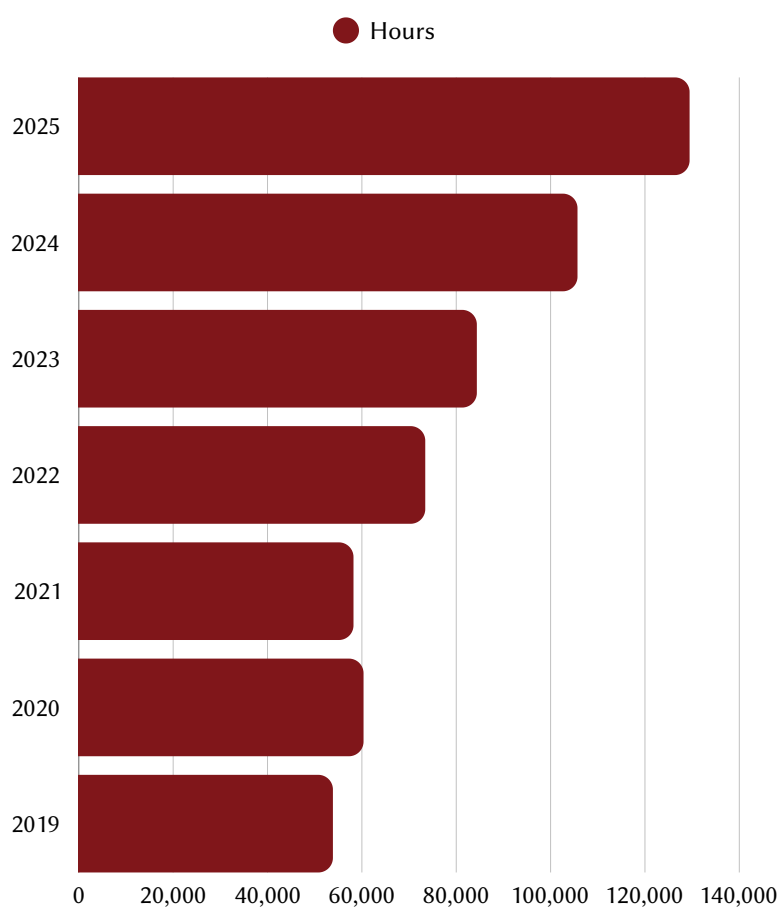
129,000 Hours

Our pro bono attorneys and partners dedicated a record-breaking 129,462 hours in pro bono assistance.



Pro Bono Hours

Below is an overview, by year, of the number of hours pro bono volunteers at LSW law firm and corporate partners worked on LSW-referred pro bono matters.



129k

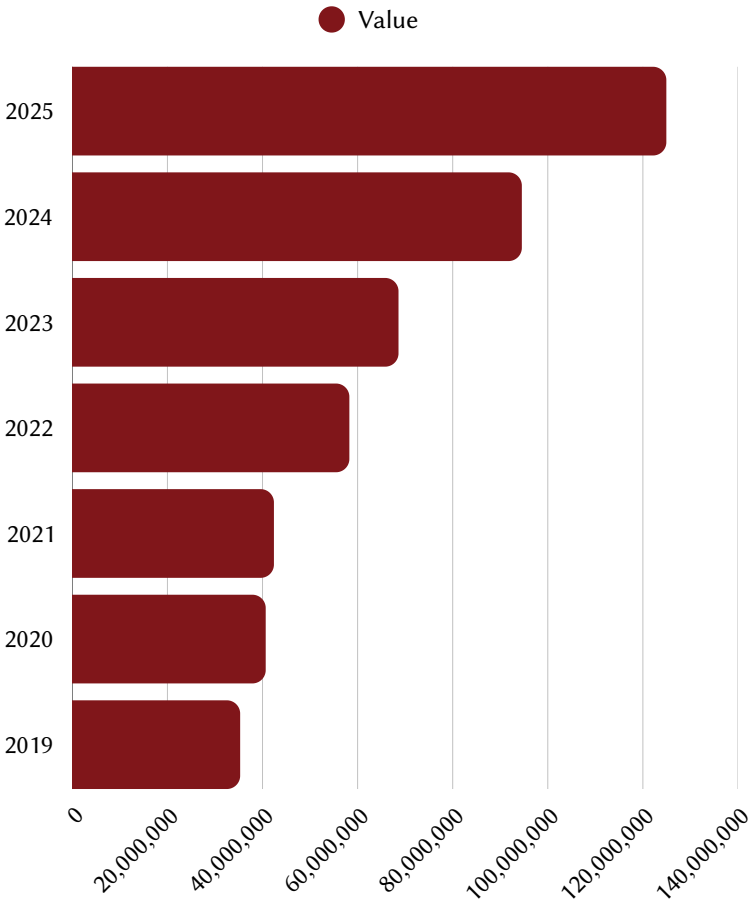
pro bono hours
in 2025

↑140%

increase in pro bono
hours since 2019

Pro Bono Value

Below is an overview, by year, of the value of the pro bono work by volunteers from LSW law firm and corporate partners. The value has more than doubled since 2020.



\$125M
pro bono value in
2025

↑253%
increase in pro bono
value since 2019

LSW Clinics

LSW engaged in extensive outreach, conducting 24 clinics for veterans, servicemembers, and our pro bono partners, serving 257 veterans and servicemembers. Below is a chart of the LSW clinics conducted in 2025.



Clinics

The topics included CRSC, discharge upgrades, discharge upgrade file reviews, IDES, medical retirement and TSGLI.



Veterans

257 veterans were provided with brief service, advice, and individual consultations.

LSW Trainings

LSW engaged in extensive outreach in 2025, with LSW staff conducting 49 live trainings for 2,798 attendees at partner law firms, corporations, and NVLSP's VSO state partners. This reflects a significant increase from 2024, when LSW staff conducted 39 live trainings for 1,154 attendees. LSW also provides recorded trainings and written training manuals to pro bono partners.



49

Live Trainings

LSW trainings addressed discharge upgrades, Combat-Related Special Compensation, medical retirement, IDES, and TSGLI.



2,798

Attendees

Attendees came from partner law firms, state agency partners and other community organizations serving veterans.

Victory Lap

This section highlights the life-changing pro bono victories achieved for veterans, service members, and their families through the dedicated work of LSW pro bono volunteers. We are deeply grateful for the tireless efforts of LSW pro bono volunteers that led to these victorious decisions issued in 2025.

NVLSP Mentoring Attorneys: Shara Abraham, Rochelle Bobroff, Amy Borgersen, Renee Burbank, Margaret (Peggy) Costello, Brandy Disbennett-Albrecht, McCall Dupree, Amy Fulmer, Lou George, Matthew Handley, Esther Leibfarth, Kenny Meador, Erin Mee, Emily Mills, Sherrie Moreira, Chris Murray, Anita Nigam-Ritchie, Rebecca Pierce, Abigail Reynolds, Abigail Schopick, Carlie Steiner, Bart Stichman, Dale Ton, Stacy Tromble, Lora Vineberg, Margaret (Margie) Wilks, Sean Wojciechowski, Hannah Zacharias

Department of Defense Cases Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)

Supreme Court



Corporal (Cpl.) Simon Soto (Ret.) served in the United States Marine Corps from August 2000 to April 2006. As a result of his service in Mortuary Affairs, he suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). Ultimately, Cpl. Soto was medically retired due to his PTSD in April 2006. In June 2016, Cpl. Soto applied for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC), which he was awarded in October 2016.

However, the Navy limited its payment to Cpl. Soto to only six years of retroactive CRSC in reliance on the Barring Act. The military claimed that the Barring Act places a six-year ceiling on the amount it could pay in retroactive CRSC. CRSC provides monthly tax-free payments, including retroactive benefits, to veterans with combat-related disabilities who were medically retired by the military

NVLSP and Sidley Austin filed a lawsuit in 2017 on behalf of Cpl. Soto and a class of similarly situated veterans who were denied more than six years of retroactive CRSC. On February 11, 2019, the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Texas granted class certification for a class of over 9,000 disabled Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard veterans.

Victory Lap

Department of Defense Cases Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)

Supreme Court



On December 16, 2021, the Court rejected the military's rationale and ordered the government to pay all former service members whose amount of CRSC payment was limited by the government's application of the Barring Act. However, the Federal Circuit reversed. **Tacy Flint, Simone Jones, Nat Love, Emily Wexler, Ankur Shingal, Lakeisha Mays, and Camille Sanchez** of **Sidley** represented the class in an appeal to the Supreme Court.

On June 12, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled unanimously in favor of Cpl. Soto and the class of veterans who were wrongfully denied their full retroactive CRSC. The Supreme Court unanimously held that there is no six-year cap on retroactive CRSC payments. Justice Clarence Thomas, writing for the Court, explained that “where, as here, the statutory scheme involves a small group of particularly deserving claimants, it is not extraordinary to think that Congress wished to forgo a limitations period.”



NVLSP Board Member & Sidley Austin LLP Pro Bono Counsel Emily Wexler, NVLSP Director of Litigation Renee Burbank and Sidley Austin Appellate Litigator **Tacy Flint** gathered outside the Supreme Court after oral arguments on April 28, 2025 in *Soto v. United States*.

Victory Lap

United States District Court for the District of Maryland



Technical Sergeant (TSgt) Thomas D. Cumbie (Ret.) served as an Air Force Intelligence Surveillance Reconnaissance Operator. TSgt Cumbie deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation New Dawn, completing three tours in Iraq. During his third deployment, insurgents frequently attacked his unit with improvised explosive devices and improvised rocket-assisted munitions almost daily for several weeks. TSgt Cumbie was diagnosed in service with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) due to his combat experiences during deployment to Iraq. He was medically retired for his PTSD with a determination by the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) that his PTSD was a direct result of active combat. The VA granted service connection for PTSD based on a “highly stressful event” during service.

TSgt Cumbie applied for CRSC for his PTSD as either a direct result of the armed conflict or incurred through instrumentality of war. His application was denied. The AFBCMR asserted that the standard for CRSC was much more rigorous than the standard for a combat finding by the VA. The AFBCMR stated that “a combat-related determination by the PEB does not automatically qualify an applicant for CRSC.” The Board found that TSgt Cumbie had not shown that he was actively engaged with enemy forces.

Left to right: NVLSP Special Counsel Sherrie Moreira with Jim Carsten, DoN DESCP Program Manager and NVLSP Senior Managing Attorney Esther N. Leibfarth at the Joint Service Disability Evaluation System Counsel Program Training, Verification and Certification Course.

Robert Quackenboss and Kevin Gaunt of Hunton represented the veteran at the District Court for Maryland, arguing that the AFBCMR’s denial of CRSC violated the Administrative Procedure Act. The court agreed, granting summary judgment for TSgt Cumbie. The court held that the AFBCMR applied the wrong standard by requiring active engagement with the enemy. The court stated: “Assigning the words their ordinary, plain meaning, it is implausible to interpret the phrase ‘direct result of armed conflict’ as necessarily requiring evidence of active engagement with enemy forces to establish a combat-related disability” (emphasis in original). The court further held that the decision failed to rationally connect the decision to the evidence. The court explained that the AFBCMR did “not grapple with” evidence, including testimony, medical records, and VA and PEB findings deeming TSgt Cumbie’s PTSD combat-related. Finally, the court concluded that the AFBCMR failed to address TSgt Cumbie’s argument that his PTSD was combat-related as incurred through an instrumentality of war. The court remanded the matter back to the AFBCMR for consideration consistent with the court’s opinion, closing the case.



Victory Lap

Court of Federal Claims - CRSC



During his first tour in Afghanistan, an Army Combat Engineer obtained specialized training as a Mine Detection Dog handler. His four-member unit was the first in the history of the Army and Army National Guard to deploy a Mine Detection Dog handler in Afghanistan. His mission while at Bagram Air Base in Afghanistan required him to direct his dog in surrounding fields known to have live mines, unexploded ordnance, and other explosives. Each day, he spent hours expertly leading his dog in the detection and disposal of live mines and explosives, with the knowledge that if one were to explode in their presence, he and others around him would almost certainly be severely wounded or killed. He performed these duties with limited protective equipment, no weapon, and no protective cover.

On one mission outside of Bagram Air Base, working in a live minefield, they were fired upon by the enemy at extremely close range. Because he was unarmed in a live minefield with his dog, he could not take immediate cover and could only slowly guide his dog out of the active minefield.

He developed post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), leading to medical retirement. The Army Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) determined that his PTSD was due to combat stressors from Afghanistan.

However, his application for CRSC was denied, including on appeal to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR). The Board asserted that there was insufficient evidence for a finding of combat relation, ignoring his medical records, personnel records, and supporting statements from members of his unit.

Jaclyn Moyer, Meredith Loretta, Jessica Maneval, and Blake Sweat of WilmerHale filed a complaint in the Court of Federal Claims asserting that the denial of CRSC for PTSD was arbitrary, capricious, and contrary to law. The complaint noted that the ABCMR never addressed the veteran's contention that his PTSD was caused by an instrumentality of war, and the ABCMR did not grapple with the favorable PEB finding of combat relation, VA determinations of the cause of his PTSD, and witness statements. The complaint further argued that the ABCMR improperly concluded that nothing other than "official military documentation" is permitted for approval of CRSC. The complaint explained that there is also no requirement in law, regulation, or guidance limiting the consideration of medical evidence to only that "from the time the injury occurred." Rather, the Program Guidance requires that CRSC determinations rely on a "preponderance of available documentary information," and the veteran met this standard.

The government filed an unopposed motion for a remand, and the volunteers filed a brief at the ABCMR highlighting the extensive evidence previously submitted. In a new decision, the ABCMR "found sufficient evidence" that his PTSD was caused by "his experience of enduring hostile fire while engaged in minefield operations," and the Board awarded CRSC benefits for his PTSD.



Victory Lap

Court of Federal Claims - CRSC



An Army Combat Engineer injured his back and ankles while participating in a training competition focusing on combat battle drills, teamwork, and leadership. Following a fall while moving a simulated casualty during the training competition, he was injured and complained of both ankle and back pain.

He was medically retired for back and ankle conditions with an explicit finding by the Army Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) that these conditions were combat-related, as incurred under conditions simulating war due to moving a simulated casualty during tactical exercises.

He applied for CRSC for his back and ankle conditions, submitting supporting statements by individuals who were involved in—and responsible for—the pertinent combat exercises. One statement was from the highest-ranking enlisted member in his company. Four additional statements were from veterans who participated in the training competition, witnessed the injury, and personally observed the Combat Engineer experiencing pain and/or seeking immediate medical care. CRSC was denied, with the decision stating: “[b]uddy statements cannot be used to award CRSC conditions.”

Andrew Current and Dawn Stern of DLA Piper filed suit in the Court of Federal Claims (COFC) under the Tucker Act. The complaint alleged that the CRSC Board policy barring “buddy statements,” and its decision to not consider buddy statements, directly contradicted Department of Defense Instructions, which require determinations of eligibility based on the preponderance of all available documentary information. The complaint further argued that the CRSC Board had failed to grapple with the PEB’s finding that the conditions were incurred under conditions simulating war. The matter settled with an award of CRSC benefits.



NVLSP Development Manager Masha Danilenko (center) and NVLSP Senior Pro Bono Coordinating Attorney Erin Mee (right) catch up with U.S. Pro Bono Counsel at Eversheds Sutherland, Harmony Jones (left), at the 2026 Pro Bono Institute Annual Conference Expo.

Victory Lap

Court of Federal Claims - CRSC



An Air Force Airfield Operations Officer deployed to Iraq with an Army Special Forces Task Force in support of Operation Inherent Resolve, serving as Chief Airspace Manager. His specific role was to track enemies, deconflict strikes, manage aircraft, direct firepower, and achieve military leadership's combat priorities by visually directing the battlefield on a real-time, continuous, and daily basis. He coordinated numerous strikes, building raids, vehicle interdictions, and the capture of enemy combatants. His actions resulted in confirmed kills of several high value insurgents and ISIS commanders. He received the Joint Service Commendation Medal with a Combat Device and the Army Achievement Medal with a Combat Device.

He was medically retired for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), with an explicit finding by the Air Force Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) that his PTSD was combat-related as a direct result of armed conflict. The PEB documented that he was "responsible for coordinating air strikes (often hitting civilians as collateral damage) and coordinating kill or capture operations of high value targets, amounting to seeing one to ten people killed every day through a monitor."



He applied for CRSC and was denied, initially and on reconsideration. The CRSC Board stated that he failed to provide documentation to confirm that his PTSD was a direct result of armed conflict. The Board never addressed his alternative argument that his PTSD was incurred through an instrumentality of war.

Thomas McGovern and Komal Nigam of Hogan Lovells Cadwalader, with support from former associates David Wilner and Joseph Murphy, represented the veteran through litigation in the Court of Federal Claims. The complaint argued that the CRSC Board applied the wrong standard in requiring confirmation of armed conflict rather than applying the standard of the preponderance of the evidence. The complaint further challenged the decision for failing to address the veteran's argument seeking CRSC as incurred through an instrumentality of war. The complaint challenged the Board's decision as unsupported by the evidence, including the Board's failure to grapple with the PEB's determination that the veteran's PTSD was combat-related and the veteran's combat awards. The matter settled with an award of CRSC for the veteran's PTSD.

Left to right: Edward T. Kang, Partner Alston & Bird's D.C. office, NVLSP Senior Pro Bono Coordinating Attorney Erin Mee, NVLSP Executive Director Paul Wright, Pete November, Bob Dole Awardee and CEO of Oschner Health, Mary Benton, Pro Bono Partner, Atlanta Office Alston & Bird, Alexis Higgs, Bob Dole Awardee and Counsel Alston & Bird, Los Angeles, and Bill Jordan, Partner, Alston & Bird, Atlanta and Washington D.C.

Victory Lap

CRSC- Administrative Decisions and Appeals



An Army Personnel Clerk deployed to Iraq, where he was exposed to daily rocket and mortar attacks. He developed mental health symptoms and was medically retired for an anxiety disorder with an explicit determination by the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) that the condition was due to indirect fire on base. He applied on his own for CRSC for his mental health and was denied.

David Feigenbaum, Andrew Gunnell, and Eric Keller of Paul Hastings filed a request for reconsideration, attaching extensive new documentation. The volunteers submitted new medical records linking the veteran's Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) to the indirect fire and an updated statement from his superior, who was the equivalent of the veteran's Company First Sergeant. The command statement confirmed that the veteran had experienced daily indirect fire during his deployment. The CRSC Board denied the application, stating that the veteran submitted "no new evidence to link your requested conditions to a combat-related event."

Undeterred, the team appealed to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (ABCMR). The brief set forth the multiple medical records linking the veteran's mental health condition to mortars on base.

The volunteers emphasized the command statement corroborating the indirect fire experienced by the veteran. The brief included as an exhibit two BCMR cases awarding CRSC for PTSD from indirect fire and argued that the Army must treat similarly situated cases in the same manner. Finally, the brief explained that the PEB's findings should be considered presumptively valid absent clear evidence to the contrary. The veteran received a favorable decision, awarding CRSC for PTSD at 70%.



NVLSP Staff at the 2025 Annual Benefit Reception. Left to right: NVLSP Staff Attorneys Matt Handley and Lora Vineberg, Senior Staff Attorney Abigail Reynolds, Staff Attorney Amy Fulmer, NVLSP Executive Director Paul Wright, Senior Managing Attorney Esther Leibfarth, Special Counsel Sherrie Moreira, Director of Pro Bono Program Lawyers Serving Warriors® Rochelle Bobroff, Senior Pro Bono Coordinating Attorney Erin Mee, and Equal Justice Works Fellow Sean Wojciechowski.

Victory Lap

CRSC- Administrative Decisions and Appeals



An Air Force Aircrew Pararescue Craftsman incurred various musculoskeletal injuries from multiple hard landings, rappelling incidents, and hard parachute openings. He fell when he lost control of the fast rope during a combat sortie mission while deployed to Iraq, injuring his back. He injured his right knee rappelling from a helicopter on a night tactical flight. He developed hip conditions from pararescue training and deployments attributed to hard openings and hard parachute landings, and demanding training routine to qualify for Combat Rescue Officer School. He was medically retired for his back, knee and hip conditions, with an explicit determination that these conditions were combat-related due to hazardous service or conditions simulating war. The veteran applied on his own for CRSC for these conditions and was denied.

Ardie Ermac and James Moon of Davis Wright Tremaine filed a request for reconsideration for these physical conditions, attaching extensive medical documentation. The brief explained that the medical records linked the conditions to hazardous service or conditions simulating war. The veteran was awarded CRSC with a combined combat-related rating of 100% applied retroactively to 2021.



NVLSP's Senior Appellate Attorney Emily Woodward Deutsch meticulously labored over the Wall of Remembrance at the Korean War Veterans Memorial.



In May 2025, NVLSP staff and family together with pro bono partner White & Case volunteered to wash the Korean War Veterans Memorial. Pictured in the forefront: NVLSP Executive Director Paul Wright cleans a wall of the Memorial.

An Army Infantryman completed airborne training and Special Forces Assessment and Selection, joining the Rangers and deploying to Afghanistan. In one incident, his unit was ordered to inspect a building in Afghanistan that was suspected to be an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) and chemical weapons factory. As he attempted to clear the building with a grenade, the entire facility exploded and collapsed, with one of the walls falling directly on the veteran and others in his unit. He suffered numerous crush injuries due to as a result of the wall collapse and was also rendered unconscious. He was awarded a Purple Heart and Combat Infantryman Badge.

Mark Kinghorn of McGuireWoods filed an application for CRSC for the veteran. The veteran was awarded CRSC for multiple conditions, including Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder and several physical disabilities.

Victory Lap

CRSC- Administrative Decisions and Appeals

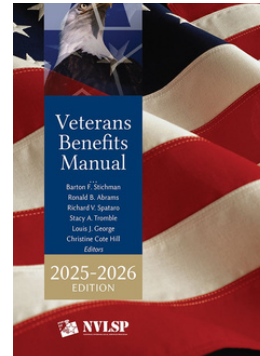


An Army Mechanical Maintenance Supervisor deployed in the initial invasion of Iraq where he came under direct fire. Subsequently, while on a ten-day convoy in Afghanistan, his vehicle was struck by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED), and he was thrown from the vehicle. He developed Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) from multiple combat traumas in service. He was awarded a Combat Action Badge. He retired after 20 years of service. Post-discharge, the VA granted service connection for several medical conditions that are associated with exposure to burn pits.

A team lead by **Evan Day** of **Ashurst Perkins Coie** prepared an application for CRSC for the veteran. They sought CRSC for his PTSD as incurred as a result of armed conflict, for his irritable bowel syndrome under the VA medically unexplained chronic multisymptom illness presumption, and for his asthma and rhinitis under the PACT Act presumption. The veteran was awarded CRSC for multiple conditions with a combined combat-related rating of 80%.

An Air Force Communications-Computer Systems Operator Craftsman deployed to Kuwait and Qatar. She worked on installation and maintenance of Air Force computer systems. Her role often involved physical tasks such as lifting and crawling, which initially resulted in body aches, especially back pain. She was medically retired due to fibromyalgia.

Michele Penzer and **Stacy Silver** of **Latham & Watkins** filed for CRSC for the veteran. She was awarded CRSC for her fibromyalgia under the VA medically unexplained chronic multisymptom illness presumption and for her rhinitis under the PACT Act presumption for a combined rating of 50%



Presenters



Barton F. Seichman
Special Counsel and Co-Founder



Richard V. Sestaro
Director of Training and Publications



Brenda A. Burbank
Director of Litigation



Alexis M. Henry
Senior Staff Attorney

On June 25, 2025, NVLSP, author of the *Veterans Benefits Manual* the nation's first treatise on veterans law, offered its unique legal expertise in a daylong training session. The event was held in the Washington, DC office of Latham & Watkins.

An Army Combat Engineer served as a Buffalo vehicle operator and conducted Combined Arms Route Clearance Operations during Operation Enduring Freedom XIV, clearing thousands of kilometers of main supply routes of improvised explosive devices (IEDs). During his two deployments to Afghanistan and his deployment to Kuwait, he was exposed to indirect fire, incoming mortars, explosions from IEDs, and witnessing a fellow soldier killed in action. In one of his Afghanistan deployments, he interrogated an IED with his vehicle and it detonated. For this incident, he was awarded the Combat Action Badge. Due to these events, he suffered from Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and migraines, as well as injuries to his cervical spine and shoulders.

Val Peterson, **Brandon Liu**, and **Erica Wilson** of **Troutman** filed an application for CRSC. The veteran was awarded CRSC for PTSD and numerous physical conditions, with a total combat-related rating of 90%

Victory Lap

CRSC- Administrative Decisions and Appeals



An Army Infantryman deployed to Afghanistan. While out on patrol, he took fire, but in an attempt to evade fire, their trucks became stuck in soft sand. The enemy then moved rocket propelled grenades through a field of tall grass. They therefore called in for air support who saved the platoon. The veteran was awarded a Combat Infantryman Badge for the event. He was medically retired for physical disabilities, and post-discharge, he was service connected for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). **Matt Rowan** and **Andrew Calica** of **King & Spalding** represented the veteran in filing for CRSC. The veteran was awarded CRSC for his PTSD, rated at 50%

An Army Infantryman embarked on a midnight parachute jump for training. After exiting the aircraft, his parachute became twisted and did not open until shortly before hitting the ground when he was already below the tree line and less than 100 feet from the ground. As a result, he hit the ground at a very high rate of speed, which led to his legs crumpling under him and falling on his back with immediate pain. He suffered back injuries which resulted in his medical retirement, with an explicit determination by the Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) that the conditions were combat-related as caused by the parachute landing incident. He also developed a mental health disability due to the stressor of the hard landing.



NVLSP Senior Pro Bono Coordinating Attorney Erin Mee (center) joined the panel at 2026 Pro Bono Institute Annual Conference with Squire Patton Boggs , Corrine M. Williams (left) and Nika Cohen (right) for thoughtful discussion on pro bono work.

James Fishkin of **Dechert** assisted the veteran with an application for CRSC. The brief argued that the medical records clearly demonstrated these conditions were due to the parachute landing, which qualified for CRSC as incurred through hazardous service. The CRSC Board awarded benefits for several back conditions and his mental health, as due to hazardous service in airborne operations, with a total combined combat-related rating of 80%.

Victory Lap

CRSC- Administrative Decisions and Appeals



An Army Cannon Crewmember deployed to Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom as part of the Quick Reactionary Force. He was the first into action in the event of mortar attacks, gunfire, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), or any other hostile action. He was regularly the first man in the door to house raids, and experienced numerous mortar attacks. Due to his experience of several blasts from IEDs, rocket-propelled grenade (RPG), and small arms fire, he experienced a concussion. He was awarded a Combat Action Badge for his engagement with the enemy. He began to experience Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), and the Army determined he was not capable of employment.

First, **Faegre Drinker** assisted the veteran to obtain a retroactive medical retirement. Subsequently, **Megan Farooqui, Shane Anderson, Jaclyn Marasco, and Theresa Tischer** of **Faegre Drinker** filed a CRSC application for the veteran for his combat related conditions. The veteran was awarded CRSC for his PTSD and other conditions, with a combined combat-rated condition that reached 100%.



Amanda Klopp and **Kristen Fiore** of **Akerman** prepared an application for CRSC for the veteran. Their brief advocated for the veteran to receive CRSC for injuries including leukemia related to substance exposure. The Army awarded the veteran CRSC for all requested conditions with a combined combat-related rating of 100%.

An Air Force Commander engaged in armed conflict and hazardous service during Operation Urgent Fury in Grenada, and Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, in Kuwait. During Operation Urgent Fury, he performed a combat jump from five-hundred feet during high-wind conditions, with no reserve parachute, as part of a combat parachute insertion into Grenada for which he received the Bronze Star Medal with Valor. He was exposed to hostile enemy fire during the mission. Then during Operation Desert Shield, the veteran participated in a combat helicopter assault into Kuwait City International Airport, during which he ran “24 hour” air traffic control operations out of a damaged and “burned out” Kuwaiti tower for five days. He retired after 23 years of service, being service connected by the VA for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Thomas Brett and **Michael Stoianoff** of **Nixon Peabody** filed an initial application for CRSC. The veteran was awarded CRSC for his PTSD and other conditions, with a combined combat-related rating of 70%.

Victory Lap

CRSC- Administrative Decisions and Appeals



An Army Infantryman was awarded the Combat Infantryman Badge for participating in ground combat operations under enemy hostile fire to liberate Iraq in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. He also received a Valorous Unit Award. The award highlighted that despite encountering heavy resistance, the unit demonstrated an “indomitable spirit in taking the fight to the enemy” and defeating a local insurgency. The veteran incurred Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) due to his combat trauma and was medically retired for that condition. Post-discharge, he was service connected for bronchitis, a PACT Act presumptive condition.

Jim Pascale, Andrew Brooks and **John Brady** of **Milbank** represented the veteran in seeking CRSC. The veteran was awarded CRSC for all requested conditions, with a combined combat-related rating of 90%.

Serving in the Army for over 25 years, a veteran had roles including Chief Medical Non-Commissioned Officer, Special Forces Combat Medical Specialist, and Infantryman. During a deployment to Iraq, he encountered a fierce enemy rocket attack near his position, for which he earned the Combat Medic Badge. In another incident, a rocket detonation flexed a shower wall, knocking him to the ground before he treated casualties.

During these and other Iraq attacks, the veteran was exposed to and treated mass casualties, including multiple instances of amputations and combat trauma interventions. Subsequently, his Afghanistan deployment involved continuous mortar and rocket attacks, including one detonating stored fuel. Following his retirement, he was service connected by the VA for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD).

Daniel Brown and **Steven Augustino** of **Nelson Mullins** filed an application for CRSC. The veteran was awarded CRSC for his PTSD and other conditions with a total combat-related rating of 70%.

An Air Force Material Management Craftsman deployed to Kuwait, Qatar, and Afghanistan. While in Afghanistan, he experienced indirect fire on base, as documented by an Air Force History Office letter. He was medically retired for physical disabilities. Post-discharge, he was service connected for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Irritable Bowel Syndrome (IBS).

Sam Galvan and **Amanda Sentela** of **O’Melveny** assisted the veteran with a CRSC application. The veteran was granted CRSC for his PTSD as incurred as a direct result of active combat and his IBS under the VA medically unexplained chronic multisymptom illness presumption, with a total combat-related rating of 80%.

Victory Lap

Medical Retirement

Court of Federal Claims



An Army Armor Crewman deployed to Iraq in 2003, where he participated in numerous patrols and missions as part of an Armor Battalion, often taking enemy fire, including mortar rounds. On one mission, militants attempted to ambush his tank company, and during a battle, his tank came under heavy fire, including from rocket-propelled grenades. For his key role in helping to repel the enemy attack while under fire, he was awarded an Army Commendation Medal and Combat Action Badge.

Post-deployment, he began to experience depression and hopelessness. He expressed an intent to commit suicide and was admitted in-patient to a hospital, where he received a diagnosis of adjustment disorder—a non-compensable condition. His command then threatened to discharge him with a less than honorable discharge for a personality disorder. In a follow up mental health appointment, he was diagnosed with Major Depressive Disorder (MDD), which is a compensable disability. Three months later, in 2006, he was administratively discharged with an honorable characterization of discharge and narrative reason for separation of “condition, not a disability.” Shortly after discharge, he sought VA benefits and was service connected for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and MDD, associated with his exposure to combat trauma while serving in Iraq, initially rated at 30% and later increased to 100% disabling.

In 2021, he applied to the Board for Correction of Military Records (BCMR) for a retroactive medical retirement but was denied in 2022.

The decision stated that there was insufficient evidence, without grappling with the extensive evidence that had been submitted.

Nick Stellakis, Ryan Pedraza and Eileen Henderson of Hunton Andrews Kurth represented the veteran in an appeal to the Court of Federal Claims under the Tucker Act. The complaint argued that the denial of medical retirement was unsupported by substantial evidence, arbitrary and capricious, and contrary to law.

The government moved to dismiss, arguing that a six-year statute of limitations barred the suit. The motion asserted that the statute of limitations began from his discharge in 2006, because he received diagnoses of PTSD and MDD three months before discharge. They claimed his actual or constructive knowledge of these diagnoses started the clock on the statute of limitations for requesting a medical retirement.

The volunteers filed an opposition explaining that the statute of limitations would only have begun if he actually knew at the time of discharge that he: (1) had a permanent unfitting disability not due to his misconduct; (2) was entitled to be referred to a Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) for a determination of rights before discharge; and (3) was waiving his right to be evaluated by a PEB. The opposition demonstrated that the veteran knew none of these at the time of his discharge. The evidence showed that he received conflicting diagnoses and was threatened with a punitive discharge after his suicide attempt.

Victory Lap

Medical Retirement

Court of Federal Claims



He was never told that he had the right to be referred to a PEB, and he did not waive that right. The volunteers filed an opposition explaining that the statute of limitations would only have begun if he actually knew at the time of discharge that he: (1) had a permanent unfitting disability not due to his misconduct; (2) was entitled to be referred to a Physical Evaluation Board (PEB) for a determination of rights before discharge; and (3) was waiving his right to be evaluated by a PEB. The opposition demonstrated that the veteran knew none of these at the time of his discharge. The evidence showed that he received conflicting diagnoses and was threatened with a punitive discharge after his suicide attempt. He was never told that he had the right to be referred to a PEB, and he did not waive that right.

The Court denied the motion to dismiss, agreeing that the evidence showed conflicting diagnoses and no waiver of a right to a PEB. The government then sought a voluntary remand, which the veteran agreed to. The volunteers filed a brief with the BCMR on remand and also responded to a favorable Advisory Opinion.

The BCMR awarded a medical retirement for combat-related PTSD. The decision stated: “the Board found the applicant met his burden of proof, with clear and convincing evidence, that the PTSD with major depressive disorder rated by the Department of Veteran Affairs following his initial Compensation and Pension examination at 30% would have received an equivalent rating had he been appropriately processed through the Disability Evaluation System as regulatorily required.”

An Air Force Electrical/Environmental Systems Journeyman was responsible for repairing and inspecting F-15 and C-17 integrated avionics systems to determine their operational condition. He was initially highly successful in this role. But over the course of his service in the Air Force, he developed a service-connected Depressive Disorder, ultimately causing his work performance to deteriorate until he became unfit. Rather than finding him unfit for duty, however, the Air Force used the increasingly severe symptoms of his disability to: (1) recommend against the renewal of his security clearance; (2) separate him for non-retention such that he was unable to re-enlist; and (3) bar his enlistment in the Air Force Reserve. Shortly after his discharge, the VA service connected his depressive disorder and assigned a 30% disability rating for this condition. The veteran applied to the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records (BCMR) for a retroactive medical retirement and was denied.

Danielle Stempel and **Isabella Bosetti** of **Hogan Lovells Cadwalader** represented the veteran in an appeal at the Court of Federal Claims. The Court ruled in favor of the veteran on summary judgment, holding that the BCMR’s decision was unsupported by substantial evidence. The Court found that the BCMR failed to consider the record as a whole, disregarded the plaintiff’s statements, selectively relied on evidence, declined to consider VA disability ratings, and failed to recognize the decline in the veteran’s performance as evidence of a mental health condition.

Victory Lap

Medical Retirement

Court of Federal Claims



The Court remanded the case to the BCMR for a referral into the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES), to reassess for medical retirement. The IDES process took approximately two years to determine that the veteran was not unfit due to his Depressive Disorder. The volunteers then asked the BCMR once again to correct the record, detailing the Air Force’s many errors in the IDES process, including its refusal to address the veterans’ arguments and record evidence. The BCMR denied relief again, finding the veteran fit for duty at the time of his separation. The volunteers returned to court, once again briefing summary judgment. The briefing explained that the Board had made the same errors in the second decision as the Court had found unsupported by evidence in the first Court opinion. At oral argument, the Court indicated that it intended to rule for the veteran but would first allow the parties time to engage in settlement talks. The matter was settled with the DOD awarding medical retirement for his Depressive Disorder rated at 30%.



Left to right: White & Case Associate Philip Russell, Associate Director of Engagement & Development Nichole Bartlett and Associate Otto Nunez-Montelongo gather in front of the Korean War Veterans Memorial Field of Service.

Shortly after she graduated Navy “A” school as a Hospital Corpsman, a veteran was involved in a high-speed car accident that caused a spinal injury and left her with lower thoracic and upper lumbar spinal pain. Although her healthcare providers recommended that she refrain from working, stay home, and rest, she was committed to her duties as a Hospital Corpsman and her unit, and so she returned to work despite her pain. Soon thereafter, her unit transferred her to the emergency room, including 12-hour shifts, lifting heavy objects up to 40 pounds, and extended periods of standing and walking, all of which exacerbated her back pain. Her military health records demonstrate that she struggled for years with various degrees of back pain.

After over a dozen years of increasingly aggressive treatment, her back pain further intensified to the point that she no longer could perform even sedentary work. As a result, the Navy placed her on limited duty.

The veteran also experienced trauma in service. She deployed to provide treatment to survivors of a severe earthquake. Almost a third of the patients treated were children. In one instance, a toddler died while under her care; she heard the child’s mother screaming in agony and could never forget the sound or the image of the child’s lifeless body. Immediately prior to and during her next two assignments, she lost two friends to suicide. Navy doctors diagnosed her with Generalized Anxiety Disorder.

With her physical and mental struggles leaving her vulnerable, she turned to a relationship with another service member for comfort and security. Rather than providing a source of support, however, he became abusive—physically, psychologically, and sexually.

Victory Lap

Medical Retirement

Court of Federal Claims



Subsequently, Navy doctors diagnosed her with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), citing her experience of military sexual assault and her deployment to treat earthquake survivors. She was placed on limited duty for both her mental health and her back condition.

She was referred into the Integrated Disability Evaluation System, but the Physical Evaluation Board found her fit for duty, denying medical retirement. She was discharged at the end of her active service commitment. Post-discharge, the VA rated her mental health at 70% disabling and her back condition at 40% disabling.

Meaghan Newkirk, Alexandra Trobe, and Liam Montgomery of Williams & Connolly filed suit in the Court of Federal Claims seeking a retroactive medical retirement. They filed a motion to seal the record to protect the veteran's privacy and a motion for judgment on the administrative record. The motion for judgment argued that the Navy violated the law by failing to consider the substantial evidence demonstrating that the veteran could not reasonably perform the full scope of the duties expected of her office, grade, rank, or rating. Second, the Navy failed to consider the impact of the veteran's disabling conditions on her health, the safety and welfare of her fellow service members, and on the military.

Finally, ignoring the substantial evidence to the contrary, the Navy improperly found her fit by cherry-picking facts from the record. Focusing on her ability to assist in administrative tasks, the Navy passed over her significant limited duty requirements as well as the status of her conditions from her VA exams. The Navy opposed the motion to seal the record. After the court found in the veteran's favor on the motion to seal and sealed the record, the Navy requested a remand to the Board for Correction of Naval Records. The volunteers submitted a brief on remand, and the veteran was awarded a medical retirement.



Left to right: NVLSP Director of VSO Liaison Services Louis George, NVLSP Director of Training and Publications Richard Spataro, NVLSP Director of Litigation Renee Burbank and NVLSP Senior Staff Attorney Alexis Ivory in NVLSP's Austin, Texas office.

Victory Lap

Medical Retirement

Administrative Appeals

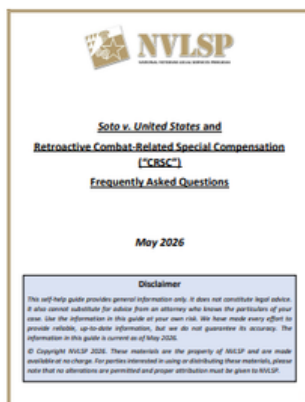
An Army Aviation Operations Specialist deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom, where he encountered traumatic combat events. The helicopter he was riding in came under attack by enemy forces and was nearly shot down. Further, he witnessed soldiers dying inside a burning Humvee, enemy forces murdering a woman in the street for committing adultery, and Taliban forces murdering an entire tribe of over 200 civilians.

Post-deployment, he began to experience mental health symptoms and attempted suicide. His diagnoses included depression and anxiety. He was referred into the Disability Evaluation System (DES). The VA diagnosed him with Post-Traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) from combat traumas. The Medical Evaluation Board found that his mental health condition failed retention standards. However, a drug test revealed that he had used marijuana and he subsequently went absent without leave.

He was administratively discharged with an Other than Honorable characterization. Post-discharge, he was service connected for PTSD with a rating of 70% disabling. He applied to the Army Discharge Review Board for an upgrade, and his discharge characterization was changed to honorable. [Jocelyn Jeziemy](#) and [Scott Levitt](#) of [Covington](#) assisted the veteran at the Army Board for Correction of Military Records (BCMR), seeking a further upgrade to medical retirement for his mental health condition. The brief set forth considerable evidence from military and VA mental health professionals that his PTSD from combat was the cause of his misconduct, warranting DES processing.

The brief explained that due to his PTSD, the veteran had been incapable of carrying or firing a weapon, living in an austere environment, handling ammunition, participating in any live fire or combat training, and maintaining the security clearance required by his military occupation specialty.

The brief argued that this evidence demonstrated that the veteran was unfit to perform the duties of his office, grade, rank, or rating. By a 2:1 vote, the Board decided to refer the veteran back to the DES for a determination of fitness. The Physical Evaluation Board then concluded that the veteran's PTSD was unfitting, with a rating of 70% disabling. The veteran was medically retired with an explicit determination that his PTSD was due to combat.



NVLSP created a FAQ resource guide about the *Soto* case to help veterans learn more about the implications of the case.

Victory Lap

Medical Retirement

Administrative Appeals

A Navy Field Medical Service Technician served for over ten years. He deployed to Afghanistan where he participated in firefights and was struck in his vehicle by an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). On numerous occasions, he provided treatment to victims of IED explosions. Post-deployment, he began to experience symptoms of a mental health condition. He was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) from combat, and he received treatment for approximately three years, culminating in a five-week intensive treatment program. He continued to experience severe symptoms after the intensive program, and therefore, he requested referral to the Disability Evaluation System (DES). His request was denied, and a few weeks later he was forced out of the Navy as not fit to re-enlist. Shortly after discharge, the VA granted service connection for PTSD based on his combat service with a 50% disability rating.

Amir Heidari and **Timothy Zimmerman** of **Gibson Dunn** represented the veteran in seeking a retroactive medical retirement. They argued that the law required that he be referred for disability processing within one year of diagnosis, but he was improperly not referred to the DES for three years. The brief explained that if the veteran had been referred, he would have been found unfit due to his severe PTSD symptoms. The brief set forth extensive evidence of providers who had explicitly found the veteran “unfit for duty from a mental health standpoint.” The volunteers advocated for a retroactive medical retirement with a rating for PTSD of 50%. The Board for Correction of Naval Records concurred and conferred a medical retirement for PTSD at 50%, with an explicit finding that his disability was combat-related.

An Army Infantryman served in the National Guard for over ten years. He deployed to two of the most combat-intensive areas of Iraq, working as a gunner. In one incident, he was riding in the turret of the second vehicle in a convoy, when the first vehicle immediately in front of him exploded from an Improvised Explosive Device (IED). The blast knocked him back in the turret, and he saw firsthand its devastating impact on the passengers of the first vehicle. After he completed the deployment, he reported mental health symptoms. He was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and precluded from carrying or firing a weapon. He was then discharged for non-duty related PTSD. Shortly thereafter, the VA service connected his PTSD with a 30% disability rating.

David de Jesus of **Reed Smith** filed an application for the veteran for a retroactive medical retirement. The brief documented that the veteran had been diagnosed with PTSD for more than a year of service, which was explicitly noted by the military provider as having been caused by his combat deployment. The brief explained that the law requires referral into the Disability Evaluation System (DES) within a year of diagnosis, but in this case, he was not referred for approximately two years of service. The brief argued that he should have been referred to the DES, and if he had been referred, he would have been found unfit. The volunteer noted that he could not possibly have performed his military duties with his restriction on carrying a weapon. The Army Board for Correction of Military Corrections referred the matter to the Physical Evaluation Board, which awarded a retroactive medical retirement for combat-related PTSD, rated at 30% disabling.

Victory Lap

Discharge Upgrades

District Court for the District of Columbia



An Air Force Weapons Load Crew Member endured repeated and pervasive sexual harassment throughout her service and an instance of sexual assault by a fellow Airman. She incurred disciplinary charges as a result of a romantic relationship that was against military policy and was discharged with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization of service and a narrative reason of “Misconduct (minor infractions).”

Post-discharge, a private psychologist diagnosed her with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) resulting from the military sexual trauma (MST) she had endured during her military service. Subsequently, the VA determined that she had service-connected PTSD at a rating of 50%. She sought a discharge upgrade at a personal appearance hearing before the Air Force Discharge Review Board (AFDRB), based on her PTSD from MST and was denied.

Victoria Barnard, Carolyn Corwin, Sarah Schuler, Scott Freling, and Daniel Raddenbach of Covington represented the veteran on an appeal to the District Court for the District of Columbia. The matter was remanded for a new hearing before the Discharge Review Board. The Board acknowledged that the veteran had endured sexual harassment and sexual assault. The DRB changed her narrative reason for separation to Secretarial Authority but refused to change her discharge characterization. The volunteers returned to court with an amended complaint and briefed a motion for judgment on the administrative record.

The brief argued that the Board’s decision inappropriately gave decisive weight to the absence of evidence of PTSD within the veteran’s service record and relied on purported evidence not present in the administrative record. Second, when evaluating whether the veteran had a condition or experience during her service that entitled her to liberal consideration and that may mitigate and outweigh her conduct, the Board improperly discounted or entirely failed to consider evidence in the administrative record supporting her argument that she experienced military sexual trauma that resulted in her service-connected PTSD. Third, contrary to DoD guidance, the Board failed to consider numerous factors relevant to whether the veteran’s military sexual trauma and resulting PTSD mitigated and outweighed the conduct cited as the basis for her discharge.

Prior to the court issuing a decision, the Air Force issued a new decision that upgraded her discharge to fully honorable.



Victory Lap

Discharge Upgrades

Administrative Hearings and Records Review



A veteran entered active duty in the Navy after graduating medical school. He continued his medical training as an intern. During his service, he was diagnosed by Navy psychiatrists on multiple occasions with a major depressive disorder (MDD) and an anxiety disorder.

As one of very few black people in the internship program, his performance was under greater scrutiny than other interns, especially after his diagnosis of an anxiety disorder was improperly disclosed to his superiors in violation of the Health Insurance and Portability Accountability Act (HIPAA). Despite these obstacles, he received many positive evaluations during his internship.

The veteran raised concerns about racial discrimination in the treatment of an African American patient he was caring for and sent an email to then-President Obama at the request of the patient's family. Immediately following this incident, his program director called him in for a counseling session, ordered a command directed evaluation to examine his mental health state, and placed him on probation. Shortly thereafter, an anonymous email was sent to his program director stating that he was in need of drug rehabilitation. A urinalysis was ordered and he tested positive for the active ingredient in marijuana. He was separated from the Navy with a General, Under Honorable Conditions discharge and a notation of "Misconduct (Other)" as the narrative reason.

Subsequently, the VA diagnosed the veteran with service-connected MDD with anxiety with a 100% disability rating. He successfully rebuilt his life, remaining sober, with a strong marriage and son. He established a new career for himself as a research associate.

Regis Worley and Rich Noland of Eversheds Sutherland assisted the veteran in seeking a discharge upgrade through a records review at the Naval Discharge Review Board. The request for an upgrade was denied. The team then continued its representation at a hearing, supported by a brief. The brief set forth the racial discrimination experienced by the veteran and argued that his misconduct was mitigated by his mental health.

The Board chastised the veteran for "unprofessionally challeng[ing] his chain of command by sending an e-mail to the President of the United States." The Board's decision left out any mention of the veteran's report of racial discrimination. While refusing to accept any nexus between the veteran's mental health and his misconduct, the Board determined that clemency was merited. The veteran's discharge characterization was upgraded to Honorable with the narrative reason of Secretarial Authority.

Victory Lap

Discharge Upgrades

Administrative Hearings and Records Review



A Marine Corps veteran served for several years as an Administrative Clerk and Radio Operator, receiving positive evaluations. While deployed, another Marine committed suicide by hanging. The veteran heard the scream of the person who found the dead Marine and had to complete administrative paperwork related to the Marine's death. He started to experience symptoms of a mental health condition including depression and anxiety. In an attempt to self-medicate, he abused alcohol. As a result, he had multiple alcohol-related disciplinary incidents that resulted in him being sent to substance abuse counseling and ultimately a rehabilitation facility for treatment. He attempted suicide and was hospitalized, receiving a diagnosis of depression. Shortly thereafter, he was discharged with an Other than Honorable characterization and narrative reason of Misconduct.

Post-discharge, the veteran was diagnosed by the VA with depression, but he was ineligible for benefits due to his discharge characterization. He became sober through involvement in Alcoholics Anonymous, including having a sponsor and participating in therapy programs. He obtained a Bachelor's Degree in Computer Informatics followed by a Master's Degree in Computer Science. He was employed as a software automation engineer and then as a program analyst.

Meredith Manuel, Mark Supko, Jasmine Masri, and Michael Samuels of Crowell & Moring represented the veteran at a hearing before the Naval Discharge Review Board and submitted a supporting brief. The brief argued that the veteran's mental health conditions mitigated his misconduct and further requested equitable relief by emphasizing that the misconduct was relatively minor and highlighting the veteran's post-discharge accomplishments. Although the Board declined to recognize a connection between the veteran's mental health and his misconduct, attributing responsibility instead to the veteran's "alcoholism," it ultimately weighed the severity of the misconduct against the discharge characterization and determined that clemency was warranted based on the veteran's post-discharge conduct. The veteran's discharge characterization was upgraded to Honorable, with the narrative reason changed to Secretarial Authority.



NVLSP Director of Training and Publications Rick Spataro shares his insights at NVLSP's 2025 Veterans Benefits Training for Advocates .

Victory Lap

Discharge Upgrades

Administrative Hearings and Records Review



An Army Rifleman injured his shoulder and neck in combatives training and was offered a change in his military occupational specialty or disability processing. Instead, he coped with his pain and completed a deployment to Iraq lasting over a year. He served on a patrol team and witnessed his fellow service members severely injured and killed. When he finished the deployment, he sought medical care for his neck. His physical injury had worsened considerably during the deployment, and he began to be processed for a medical retirement. He also began to experience mental health symptoms from combat trauma. He sought treatment for his mental health and was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). He self-medicated with alcohol and subsequently received punishment for driving under the influence. His disability processing was terminated, and he was administratively discharged, receiving a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization. Post-discharge, the VA granted service connection for PTSD as well as physical disabilities. He applied for a discharge upgrade at the Army Discharge Review Board on his own and was denied.

Katherine Skipsey of Sheppard Mullin filed an appeal of the denial, representing the veteran at a hearing. In a unanimous decision, the Board granted an upgrade considering the veteran's testimony at the hearing and the brief submitted by counsel. The Board applied liberal consideration and concluded that there was a nexus between the veteran's misconduct and his mental health. The Board determined that the veteran's mental health condition "outweighed" his misconduct. The veteran's discharge characterization was upgraded to Honorable.

A Navy Hospital Corpsman deployed to Afghanistan in support of Operation Enduring Freedom. On the first day he arrived at the base in Afghanistan, his helicopter took incoming rocket propelled grenade fire. He sustained a traumatic brain injury (TBI) when his armored vehicle ran over an improvised explosive device ("IED"). In addition, he was exposed to heavy combat and faced numerous traumatic experiences throughout his deployment. He was awarded the Combat Action Ribbon for his combat service. After returning from Afghanistan, he reported numerous signs of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder ("PTSD") and TBI. While on active duty he was prescribed opioids, morphine sulfate, and oxycodone in order to control his PTSD and TBI symptoms and began abusing them, leading to addiction. His self-medication with addictive substances led to a room search revealing a synthetic cannabinoid. He was discharged with an Other than Honorable characterization and a narrative reason of misconduct. He sought VA benefits following his discharge. The VA determined that his discharge was under honorable conditions for VA purposes, and further concluded that he qualified for a 50% disability rating for PTSD and TBI.

Ashley Bashur, Daniel Martin, and Patrick Nyman of **WilmerHale** represented the veteran in seeking an upgrade at the Naval Discharge Review Board. The brief argued that his PTSD and TBI excused and mitigated his discharge because they were a major contributing factor to the circumstances leading to his misconduct.

Victory Lap

Discharge Upgrades

Administrative Hearings and Records Review



The brief documented that the veteran did not have a history of opiate use before or during his deployment, and he never was tempted to use morphine during deployment despite having access to it at all times in his role as a field medical service technician. It was not until he was prescribed opioids to ease his physical symptoms that he began using them to self-medicate his mental symptoms. The Board acknowledged documentation that the veteran had been prescribed opioids due to his TBI. The Board “noted the exposure and vulnerability the prescription presented for the [veteran] to seek means of self-medication.” Applying liberal consideration, the Board upgraded the veteran’s discharge to Honorable with the narrative reason of Secretarial Authority.

A Navy Maintenance Technician was abducted, robbed, held against her will at gunpoint for thirteen hours, and repeatedly raped. She immediately reported the incident to her command and the police. She testified in court hearings, sharing her traumatic experience in detail, a “humiliating and excruciating” experience. As a result, the perpetrators were convicted. She was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) in service, due to this trauma. A treating provider noted that her symptoms were exacerbated by the trials and subsequent sentencing of the perpetrators. She self-medicated with marijuana to address her mental health symptoms, including nightmares. She then tested positive for marijuana after a urinary analysis. She was discharged with an Other than Honorable characterization and a narrative reason of “Misconduct (Drug Abuse).”

She subsequently applied for VA benefits but was barred due to her discharge characterization. She worked as a peer support specialist answering calls at the National Suicide Prevention hotline, counseling anonymous individuals on suicidal thoughts, abuse, domestic violence, and other needs.

Lexi Wung and Jonathan Lahn of Kirkland sought a discharge upgrade for the veteran before the Naval Discharge Review Board. Their brief argued that the sexual assault the veteran endured, and the resulting PTSD, mitigated and excused her misconduct. The brief also noted evolving public attitudes toward marijuana use, emphasizing that many states have legalized it for both medical and recreational purposes. The Board’s Medical Officer concluded that there was a nexus between the veteran’s mental health and her misconduct. Applying liberal consideration, the Board agreed and upgraded the veteran’s discharge characterization to Honorable, with a narrative reason of Secretarial Authority.

A Navy Electrical/Mechanical Equipment Repairman deployed to the Mediterranean and Red Seas in support of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm, earning a Letter of Commendation. He had no misconduct in his service. He was observed “engaging in homosexual acts.” He was discharged with an Other than Honorable discharge characterization and a narrative reason for separation of Homosexuality.

Victory Lap

Discharge Upgrades

Administrative Hearings and Records Review



Edward Gonzales of **Skadden** filed a brief at the Board for Correction of Naval Records seeking an upgrade. The brief set forth the veteran's excellent service with no aggravating factors for his discharge. The application highlighted the change in policy which no longer permitted discharge based solely on homosexuality. The Board granted an upgrade to Honorable with a narrative reason of Secretarial Authority.

A veteran overcame his alcohol addiction through treatment and subsequently joined the Coast Guard. He served for many years, earning accolades and awards. During his second deployment to Iraq, the veteran was attached to an Army unit, with the primary mission being to clean up any remains after explosions. The veteran was subjected to mortar explosions, fighter jets, and the death of Iraqi coalition soldiers, enemy combatants, civilians and children. In one particular incident, the Veteran was so close to an explosion that it caused him to be knocked unconscious and required a days long recovery period in a hospital. Subsequently, he began to experience symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD). He sought mental health treatment and was diagnosed by military doctors with PTSD. During mental health treatment, he disclosed cocaine use to the doctor. The doctor reported the drug usage to the veteran's command, and as a result, the veteran was discharged with a characterization of "General, Under Honorable Conditions," and a narrative reason of "Misconduct – Involvement with Drugs."

Following his discharge from the Coast Guard, the veteran successfully completed a substance abuse residential rehabilitation treatment program, maintained employment, obtained a Bachelor's degree, and mentored other veterans battling mental illness and substance abuse.

Philip Sarid, **Matthew Kasner**, and **Andrea Laprade** of **Morgan Lewis** filed a brief with the Board for Correction of Military Records for the Coast Guard, located within the Department of Homeland Security. The brief sought an upgrade on the basis that the misconduct was due to and mitigated by the veteran's PTSD from combat. A Coast Guard Advisory Opinion recommended denying relief, due to the veteran's pre-existing condition of substance abuse prior to entering the service. The volunteers submitted a response highlighting the veteran's many years of honorable service prior to his combat deployment and the medical documentation linking the misconduct to the veteran's PTSD.



Victory Lap

Discharge Upgrades

Administrative Hearings and Records Review



The brief emphasized that the veteran met the requirements for an upgrade pursuant to liberal consideration. The Board agreed, concluding that it was “unfair” and “unjust” for the veteran to have been discharged for substance abuse that he reported to his doctor when seeking treatment. The veteran’s discharge was upgraded to Honorable with a narrative reason of Secretarial Authority.

An Air Force Aircraft Armament Systems Journeyman served for several years, receiving excellent performance reports and earning numerous medals. Unfortunately, his marriage deteriorated due to infidelity by his wife, and his performance suffered due to this personal stress. He had a number of instances of misconduct, such as not wearing safety goggles and arriving to work late. He was discharged with an Other than Honorable discharge characterization and a narrative reason of Misconduct.

Following his discharge, he and his wife divorced. He remarried and was initially a stay-at-home father while his wife was in school. Then he was employed as a security guard, ramp agent, and hazmat construction handler. Together with his children, the veteran volunteered at a number of charitable organizations, including Sleep Heavenly Peace, a foundation focused on building and supplying beds to families in need.

Andre Wolfe of **DLA Piper** filed an application for a discharge upgrade at the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records. The brief argued that the veteran’s military record demonstrated his many achievements during his service. The brief explained that the veteran had a lapse in judgment as a young man attempting to mend a broken marriage. The brief also outlined the veteran’s exemplary record of post-service conduct over twenty years as evidence that he has long been rehabilitated and deserved a second chance.

The Board was persuaded, based on the veteran’s good post-discharge conduct, explicitly noting his impact in his community including his volunteer work. The veteran’s discharge characterization was upgraded to Honorable with a narrative reason of Secretarial Authority.



NVLSP’s Director of Lawyers Serving Warriors® Rochelle Bobroff, Staff Attorney Amy Fulmer, and Equal Justice Works Fellow Sean Wojciechowski presented webinars for pro bono partners and veterans on the implications of the Supreme Court’s decision in Soto v. United States.

Victory Lap

Discharge Upgrades

Administrative Hearings and Records Review



On his second combat deployment, a Marine Corps machine gunner stepped on an Improvised Explosive Device (IED) in Afghanistan that exploded, seriously injuring his right leg and causing a traumatic brain injury (TBI). He was awarded a Purple Heart and Combat Action Ribbon for his combat service. After months spent in and out of the hospital and approximately 18 surgeries, his right leg was amputated below the knee. He was diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) from his combat trauma. In connection with his combat injury, he was prescribed various medications for his physical pain, depression, and sleep disturbances. But the mental and physical pain he was experiencing became unbearable. He began drinking heavily and turned to narcotics to try to numb his physical and emotional pain and subdue his suicidal thoughts. Due to his use of drugs, he was discharged with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization and a narrative reason of “In Lieu of Trial by Court Martial.”

Sally Partin and Tyler Baylis of Sidley represented the veteran in seeking a discharge upgrade at the Discharge Review Board. The brief explained that the veteran’s combat-induced PTSD and TBI mitigated the misconduct. The brief documented the evidence in service that the veteran was experiencing flashbacks from combat and other symptoms of PTSD. He similarly exhibited symptoms of the TBI following the Improvised Explosive Device blast.

The Board agreed that the veteran’s military service records documented these diagnoses. The Board found a nexus between the veteran’s misconduct and his mental health, concluding that the veteran’s mental health conditions “exonerated” his failure to comply with military discipline. The veteran was granted an upgrade to Honorable with a narrative reason of Secretarial Authority.

A Marine Corps Field Wireman participated in Operation Desert Shield and Operation Desert Storm, receiving numerous decorations. While deployed, he was exposed to many traumatic events. On one occasion his vehicle was struck by a 150- pound bomb, rendering him unconscious. He also witnessed the death of one his closest friends, a fellow Marine, when two grenades fell off the soldier’s flak jacket and exploded, killing him instantly. Throughout his time in combat, the veteran experienced regular bombing, engaged in active battle with enemy combatants, and witnessed many other deaths. He was awarded the Combat Action Badge for his participation in active combat. Due to his combat traumas, he began to experience severe symptoms of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (“PTSD”). He turned to alcohol and drugs, and then he tested positive for cocaine on a random drug test. He was discharged with a “Bad Conduct” characterization and a narrative reason of “Court-Martial.”

Victory Lap

Discharge Upgrades

Administrative Hearings and Records Review



Post-discharge, the veteran reached out to the VA for help but was denied treatment due to his discharge characterization. He therefore did not obtain a PTSD diagnosis. He paid privately for addiction treatment and connected with Alcoholics Anonymous, which provided a support mechanism for managing his mental health symptoms stemming from his traumatic combat experiences. He maintained employment in the insurance industry and volunteered in his community.

Andrew Cook and **Cosmas Robless** of **Orrick** filed an application for an upgrade at the Board for Correction of Naval Records. The brief highlighted the veteran's combat experience and rehabilitation. The Board "favorably considered his evidence of post-discharge rehabilitation and character." Applying clemency, the Board granted an upgrade to General (Under Honorable Conditions) and changed the narrative reason to "Secretarial Authority."

An Army Cannon Crewman, Ammunition Team Chief, and then Squad Leader deployed to Germany, experiencing personal trauma brought about by several significant emotional and financial challenges, including divorce, the financial responsibility of paying child support, the death of his father, and the need to assist as his mother's primary caretaker. As a result of his grief and the mounting financial pressures that he was facing at the time, the veteran absented himself from his unit to financially support his family.

Based on his absence, the Army discharged the veteran with a discharge characterization of "Other Than Honorable Conditions" and the Narrative Reason for Separation of "For the Good of Service - In Lieu of Court-Martial."

Following his discharge, the veteran continued to be the primary caretaker for his mother. He also fulfilled his financial obligations to his ex-wife and sons. He subsequently remarried, furthered his professional education, and maintained gainful employment in the healthcare field. Moreover, he dedicated his life to volunteering and service through his 16-year membership in the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary and work as a volunteer police officer.

Sean Callagy and **Bou Lee** of **Arnold & Porter** sought a discharge upgrade for the veteran at the Army Board for Correction of Military Records, arguing his discharge characterization was an injustice. The brief documented that for most of the veteran's service, he received only glowing evaluations and commendations, and his minor, non-violent and infrequent misconduct followed closely on the heels of a series of personally traumatic events. In addition, for over 30 years after his discharge, the veteran was committed to serving and helping others, through his career in the healthcare sector and through his volunteer service in the Coast Guard Auxiliary.

Victory Lap

Discharge Upgrades

Administrative Hearings and Records Review



The brief was supported by character letters, including one from a former supervisor at a healthcare job, attesting to the veteran's great work ethic and interpersonal skills. The brief also outlined his extensive awards from the Coast Guard and included character letters from his fellow "Coasties." The Board "noted the applicant's post-service achievements and character letters of reference to support clemency." The veteran's discharge characterization was upgraded to General (Under Honorable Conditions), with a narrative reason of Secretarial Authority.



NVLSP Senior Staff Attorney Alexis Ivory presented at the 2025 Veterans Benefits Training for Advocates.

An Air Force veteran served in the military for nearly fifteen years, including through Operation Desert Shield/Storm, earning numerous positive reviews and achieving promotions throughout his career. He received multiple commendations during his fifteen years of service, including the Air Force Overseas Long Tour Ribbon and Air Force Longevity Service Award Ribbon. He then had two instances of misconduct. He improperly retained \$100 in cash he received while working at an on-base store, and he was charged with theft of a government computer he was using for military tasks. He received a Bad Conduct discharge with a narrative reason of Court martial. After his separation from the military, he worked as an operations supervisor and facilities manager. He was also active in his community including his church and VFW.

Larry Slovensky and Franklin Sacha of King & Spalding filed a brief seeking an upgrade at the Army Board for Correction of Military Records. The brief highlighted the veteran's successful post-military career and devotion to his community. Four supportive character references were submitted. The Board upgraded the veteran's discharge to General (Under Honorable Conditions) with a narrative reason of Secretarial Authority, based on his "post-service accomplishments."

Victory Lap

Discharge Upgrades

Administrative Hearings and Records Review



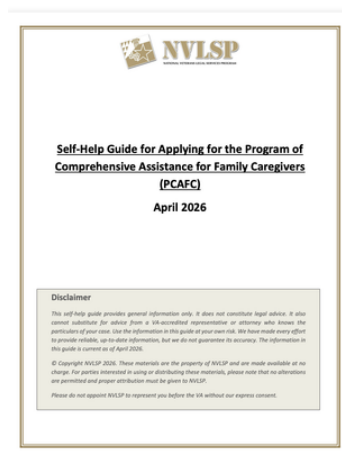
An Air Force Aircrew Life Support technician served for several years, including deployments to Saudi Arabia and Bahrain. He failed a routine drug test and faced a court martial. Despite the low level of cocaine identified in his urinalysis and his previously unblemished service record, he was discharged under Other than Honorable Conditions with a narrative reason of “In Lieu of Trial By Court-Martial.” After his discharge, he earned his Bachelor’s degree and had a successful career in which he assisted individuals who are blind.

Joey Montgomery of Williams & Connolly represented the veteran in applying for an upgrade at the Air Force Board for Correction of Military Records. The brief argued that the veteran had been a model citizen following his discharge with a successful career and clean criminal record. The brief emphasized that the misconduct was non-violent and occurred over twenty years previously. The Board upgraded the veteran’s discharge to Honorable with a narrative reason of Secretarial Authority. The Board stated he deserved an upgrade based on “fundamental fairness” after considering the evidence submitted of rehabilitation post-discharge.

An Army cook served on a combat deployment to Vietnam, earning a promotion and numerous awards, including the Vietnam Service Medal and Vietnam Campaign Medal. After his deployment ended, he went absent without leave to spend time with his new wife. He was discharged with a characterization of Under Conditions Other than Honorable and a narrative reason of “For the Good of the Service.” Post-discharge, he was employed for over 40 years at a furniture retailer and was promoted to supervisor.

Emily Parks, Lindsay Grossman, and Michael McGrath of Dechert represented the veteran in seeking an upgrade at the Board for Correction of Military Records. The brief highlighted the veteran’s excellent quality of service, emphasizing that his misconduct was non-violent and a youthful indiscretion. The brief argued that his positive post-discharge conduct outweighed his misconduct. The Board voted to deny relief, but they were overturned by the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army. The Secretary granted an upgrade in the veteran’s discharge characterization to Honorable based on his lengthy honorable service prior to the misconduct and mitigating factors.

NVLSP’s Family Caregiver Assistance Program updated its self-help guide to assist those who want to learn more about applying for the VA’s Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC).



Victory Lap

Discharge Upgrades

Administrative Hearings and Records Review



NVLSP Co-Founder and Special Counsel Bart Stichman answered questions from attendees during NVLSP's June 25, 2025 training at Latham & Watkins' Washington, DC office.

An Air Force Military Police Officer deployed to England at the age of 18, serving as the first responder to vehicle accidents, robbery and other criminal offenses and greeting visitors from all branches of service, NATO forces & distinguished dignitaries. After approximately a year and half, her supervisor gave her the highest possible evaluations, checking all the boxes for “clearly exceeds” and “truly among the best.” She received several medals for her dedicated service to the Air Force, including an Air Force Achievement Medal, for volunteering as part of the Honor Guard for the London Olympics, completing setup and teardown duties and welcoming athletes at the London Games. However, she experienced depression in basic training, and her mental health worsened while she was stationed in England. She tested positive for marijuana on a random drug test and was discharged with a character of service of Under Honorable Conditions (General) and a narrative reason of Misconduct (Drug Abuse).

Post-discharge, the VA diagnosed the veteran with major depressive disorder and adjustment disorder with anxiety, and she was awarded service-connected disability compensation for those conditions with a disability rating of 100%.

The veteran applied for an upgrade and was denied. She was subsequently granted an automatic reconsideration before the Air Force Discharge Review Board as part of a class action settlement.

Anna Craft and Stephen Parsley of Bradley Arant Boult Cummings and Megan Scholz of Bank of America submitted a brief advocating for an upgrade. The brief explained that the veteran suffered from a mental health condition that directly related to the marijuana use that led to the veteran's discharge. The brief argued that the earlier denial was inconsistent with liberal consideration, failing to give special consideration to the VA's mental health diagnosis. The brief further noted that under the Wilkie Memo, marijuana use should be “viewed, in the context of mitigating evidence, as less severe today than it was decades ago.” The Board agreed that relief was merited under the Wilkie Memo and granted an upgrade to Honorable, changing the narrative reason to Secretarial Authority.



Victory Lap

Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance ("TSGLI") Protection Program



While serving with a Special Operations Aviation Regiment in Syria, an Army Avionic Systems Repairer suffered extensive and life-threatening injuries in a helicopter crash. The helicopter experienced a mechanical failure shortly after takeoff, causing it to violently crash more than 50 feet. Upon impact, the Soldier was thrown from the back of the helicopter, which resulted in 13 major injuries. He was hospitalized and underwent multiple surgeries. Subsequently, an occupational therapy evaluation assessed him as requiring hands-on assistance with bathing, dressing, and toileting, as well as standby assistance with transfers. He was transferred to a Polytrauma Rehabilitation Center to undergo intensive inpatient rehabilitation. A nursing evaluation documented that, in addition to requiring assistance with activities of daily living (ADLs), he was at high risk for falls and was unable to ambulate.

Hilary Cairnie and **Alex Hill** of **Troutman** filed an application for TSGLI benefits for the Soldier. The brief explained that he met the criteria for TSGLI eligibility based on his hospitalization and his inability to independently perform ADLs. They submitted supporting medical documentation for the claim. The Soldier was awarded TSGLI benefits for his hospitalization and ADL loss.

He was awarded a Purple Heart and Bronze Star. After experiencing TBI-induced symptoms including hearing disturbances, memory issues, and periodic loss of consciousness, he was admitted to multiple medical facilities, including a three-month inpatient program at a Department of Defense facility specializing in TBI rehabilitation.

An Army Signal Corps Officer deployed to Iraq and suffered a traumatic brain injury (TBI) from an enemy rocket that detonated approximately fifty feet away from him. **Andrew Muscato** and former associates **Raymond Liang** and **Andy Law** of **Skadden** filed a TSGLI application for the veteran. The brief demonstrated that the veteran had been hospitalized for more than 15 consecutive days for TBI treatment and the exhibits provided documentation of this hospitalization. The veteran was awarded TSGLI benefits for his TBI hospitalization.

A Navy Seal Officer completed many years of service, including in combat. While cycling stateside, he violently impacted a nearby parked trailer, breaking his right femur and tearing muscle tissue. He underwent emergency retrograde intramedullary nailing surgery to repair his broken femur and keep it stable, as well as an incision, drainage, and washout procedure to sterilize and close his large open wound. Despite undergoing immediate surgery, he was unable to care for himself and perform simple daily activities on his own. When he was released from the hospital, the instructions noted that he required assistance for mobility, transfers, gait, and stairs. Once at home, his mother and fiancé assisted him with dressing, bathing, toileting, and transferring. He applied on his own for TSGLI benefits and was denied.

Alfred Hwang and **Abby Timmons** of **Latham & Watkins** represented the Sailor in an appeal. The brief set forth extensive medical evidence of his inability to independently perform activities of daily living (ADLs). The submission also contained statements from his mother and fiancé regarding his limitations and their assistance with ADLs. Through this appeal, the Sailor was awarded TSGLI benefits for his inability to perform ADLs.

Victory Lap

Board of Veterans' Appeals Remands from the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Kayla Hardimon Butler, Jennifer Cieluch, and Braden Copeland of Alston & Bird represented a U.S. Army Veteran who served from 1986 to 1991. The Veteran was service-connected for migraine headaches, and was seeking an increased rating commensurate with the severity of her disability. The attorneys argued that the Board of Veterans' Appeals failed to appropriately evaluate symptoms of her condition and the extent to which those symptoms impacted her ability to function in daily life and work. The Board, instead of again denying the claim, remanded the issue to the VA for further development. Subsequently, the VA Regional Office awarded an increased evaluation effective July 2019. This award produced a retroactive award of approximately \$39,000.



NVLSP Appellate Attorney Brandy Disbennett-Albrecht was appointed to the Virginia Board Of Veterans Services by Governor Spanberger in 2026 and took her oath on June 18, 2026. Ms. Disbennett-Albrecht is also 2025-2026 Chair of the Virginia State Bar Association Military and Veteran's Law Section.

Todd Brannon and James B. Zack of Ballard Spahr represented a U.S. Air Force Veteran with service from 1971 to 1992, including service in the Republic of Vietnam, for which he received the Gallantry Cross and Campaign Medal. The Veteran was service-connected for nine disabling conditions, and was seeking entitlement to a total disability rating for individual unemployability ("TDIU") due to his service-connected disabilities. Medical evaluations noted that several of his conditions impacted the ordinary conditions of daily life, including the ability to work. The volunteer attorneys argued to the Board that the Veteran's service-connected physical limitations prevented him from securing substantially gainful employment for which he was suited, in light of his education and work history. The Board agreed, and the Veteran received a grant of TDIU and a retroactive award of benefits totaling approximately \$143,000.

Victory Lap

Board of Veterans' Appeals Remands from the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Gene Elrod of Bracewell represented a U.S. Air Force Veteran who served from June 1966 to April 1970 in Thailand during the Vietnam War. The Veteran sought service-connection for Parkinsonism and essential tremors due to his service, and specifically his exposure to herbicides in Thailand. This case presented a number of issues, including regulatory and statutory presumptions surrounding exposure to herbicide in Thailand and diseases related to such exposure. The attorney worked diligently with the Veteran to prepare statements and arguments on his behalf regarding both his exposure, and his claims for Parkinsonism and essential tremors, even obtaining official U.S. Air Force documents regarding U-Tapao Royal Thai Naval Air Force Base from the Air Force Historical Research Agency. The attorney's argument and evidence package (of approximately 150 pages) resulted in a remand by the Board, but after further adjudication by the VA Regional Office, resulted in a full grant of benefits for the Veteran for Parkinsonism and all associated residuals, resulting in a retroactive award of approximately \$150,000.

Jordan Passmore, Makenzie Stuard, and Curtis Sails of Clifford Chance represented a U.S. Army Veteran who served from November 2014 to June 2018. This case concerned entitlement to an increased rating in excess of 30% for adjustment disorder with anxiety and a rating in excess of 10% for cervical strain.

Specific to the psychiatric disability, the attorneys argued that his symptoms warranted a higher rating because the Board must weigh the frequency, duration and severity of his symptoms, rather than the absence of any symptom under the rating schedule. The attorneys worked with the Veteran to prepare statements from himself and his spouse to supplement their arguments. In addition, the attorneys argued for a remand of Veteran's cervical spine disability to address secondary radiculopathy conditions. The Board awarded an increased rating of 70% for the Veteran's psychiatric disability, and remanded the cervical spine disability. The grant of 70% resulted in a retroactive award to the Veteran of approximately \$100,500.00. On remand, the Veteran also received service-connection for radiculopathy associated with his cervical spine.

Jason Domark, Nicole Connors, and Taylor Evans of Cozen O'Connor represented a Vietnam-era U.S. Navy Veteran. This Veteran had a history of homelessness and was seeking entitlement to a total disability rating based on individual unemployability ("TDIU") due to his service-connected disabilities that included residuals of an in-service traumatic brain injury, and an increased evaluation for a migraine disability. The volunteer attorneys advanced cogent and detailed arguments for the benefits sought, and specifically advocated for the Board to reconsider evidence which had previously been overlooked or discounted in the adjudication of the Veteran's TDIU claim.

Victory Lap

Board of Veterans' Appeals Remands from the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

They strongly asserted the correct standard for adjudicating TDIU claims, and in particular, the merits of this Veteran's specific case. As a result of the attorneys' advocacy, the Board granted entitlement to the increased evaluation for migraine headaches, and awarded entitlement to TDIU throughout the entire appeal period. As the effective date of the Veteran's appeal dated to April 2009, the Veteran's retroactive award for over 15 years of benefits was \$229,900.

Rebecca Suarez and Anuj Vohra of Crowell & Moring represented a U.S. Army Veteran. The Veteran was injured during basic training and underwent orthopedic surgery. He sought entitlement to a total disability rating following a second surgery on the same injury after discharge. After undergoing surgery in 2018, the Veteran's physician required him to wear a splint for at least 9 to 12 months which completely immobilized his wrist. Despite this, he was assigned a temporary total disability rating of 100% from only September 20, 2018 (the date of his surgery), to October 31, 2018. The volunteer attorneys argued that the required use of a splint for 12 months entitled him to a temporary total rating for that entire period. The Board agreed and awarded the Veteran a 100% temporary rating through September 20, 2019, resulting in retroactive benefits totaling \$21,238.46.

Cody Rockey, Kayleigh Gerber, and Jonathan Meulemans of Dykema represented U.S. Navy Veteran with service from June 2004 to December 2008. The Veteran was service-connected for an acquired psychiatric condition at 30% and sought an increased rating for this disability. The volunteer attorneys carefully reviewed and analyzed the Veteran's file and were able to point to evidence in the record to support that his occupational deficiencies; social deficiencies, including family relations; and judgment, thinking and mood deficiencies, as well as significant daily difficulties, including chronic sleep issues, were consistent with at least a 70% disability rating since he filed his claim in August 2019. The attorneys also raised entitlement to a total disability rating based on individual unemployability ("TDIU").



NVLSP Director of CAVC Litigation Stacy Tromble, NVLSP Appellate Attorney Rebecca Pierce, and NVLSP Senior Managing Appellate Attorney Christopher Murray at Albany Law School for oral arguments in *Williams v. Collins*.

Victory Lap

Board of Veterans' Appeals Remands from the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

The Board, expressly relied on the argument supplied by the volunteer attorneys, concluding that a 70% evaluation was warranted and granting the Veteran's appeal. The Board also remanded entitlement to TDIU. The award from the increased evaluation resulted in a retroactive benefit of \$60,544, and subsequently, the VA also awarded TDIU, which produced an additional retroactive award of \$129,906. The Veteran's monthly compensation benefit increased from approximately \$1,426 per month to \$3,831 per month.



NVLSP and White & Case Korean War Memorial Wall Washing volunteers posed for a photo. From left to right: Katherine Deutsch, Emily Woodward Deutsch, Abigail Mills, Emily Mills, Otto Nuñez-Montelongo, Phillip Russell, Kimberley Davis, Alec Ghezzi, Jennifer Roos, Rafael Resto-Olivo, Patty Briotta, Stacy Tromble, Paul Wright, Nichole Bartlett, Jim Bartoszczyk, Ranger Pierce, and Rosemary Deutsch.

Ron Zdrojeski, Henrik Strand, Jeremy Bloomstone, and Zia Liu of Eversheds Sutherland represented a U.S. Army Veteran who served from August 1993 to October 2004, including service in Kuwait. The Veteran was awarded a 70% evaluation for his service-connected PTSD effective July 2020. However, this case presented an interesting procedural issue concerning an earlier effective date for the Veteran's service-connected PTSD as well as an earlier effective date for the 70 percent assigned rating. Specifically, the Board failed to accept the Veteran's Notice of Disagreement ("NOD") as timely, contrary to the VA Regional Office's prior acknowledgment and acceptance of the NOD. As a result, over 2 years of benefits were denied to the Veteran. The volunteer attorneys drafted a detailed and persuasive briefing, outlining the procedural history of the Veteran's appeal, the numerous attempts by the Veteran to continue his appeal and submit the correct forms, and the Veteran's timely responses to VA letters and directions. The attorneys asserted that based on the Veteran's efforts, it was clear that he intended to assert his appeal, and that he also relied upon VA's letters accepting his NOD, and as such the earliest effective date was warranted. The Board granted the benefit in its decision, awarding the Veteran a 70% evaluation from February 2018, which resulted in a retroactive evaluation of \$18,135.

Victory Lap

Board of Veterans' Appeals Remands from the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Eric Friedman, Max Kelln, RoxAnn Mack, and Lisa Weigel of Faegre Drinker represented a U.S. Army Veteran with service in Korea from December 1971 to December 1972. The Veteran sought service-connection for his type II diabetes and associated peripheral neuropathy. In this particularly compelling case, the Veteran was in-country after the time period VA acknowledges presumptive exposure of herbicides. However, the Veteran had repeatedly testified to service along the DMZ as a construction equipment operator, and in his own words, he described: “when you are an equipment operator, and you eat dirt all day long, dust, and not to mention one of my jobs was cleaning out 4200-year-old rice paddy, feces, and whatever else they put in there.” Thus, the issue here primarily became whether herbicide remained in the topsoil and whether this Veteran would have had exposure to herbicide given his unique job duties. The attorneys provided a thorough briefing on the historical use of herbicides at the DMZ in Korea, the Veteran’s activities in Korea during his service, the statutory developments for exposure to herbicides at the DMZ, and other toxic exposure theories that the evidence raised. As a result, the Board conceded herbicide exposure due to the Veteran’s unique activities and found he would have had direct exposure to herbicides. Accordingly, the Board awarded entitlement to service-connection for diabetes, and remanded peripheral neuropathy, which was also subsequently granted. The awards resulted in a retroactive benefit to the Veteran of \$67,620.

Teague Donahey of Holland & Hart represented an 11-year U.S. Army Veteran seeking an increased rating for his service-connected lumbar spine. The Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims held that the Board failed to consider the ameliorative effects of medication on the Veteran’s back disability, and that TDIU had been reasonably raised by the record. Attorney Donahey provided expert assistance to the Veteran, assigning him in gathering the requisite forms and evidence for VA’s consideration and advocating for entitlement to TDIU on the merits, as well as the increased evaluation for his lumbar spine. The final submission with nearly 30 pages of supporting documentation covered multiple time periods and theories of entitlement spanning from October 2011 to the present time. The Board granted the Veteran entitlement to TDIU for a partial period (February 2018 to the present) and remanded the remainder of the time period. However, the partial award has resulted in a retroactive evaluation of nearly \$145,000, and an increase of almost \$2,000 per month in the Veteran’s monthly benefits. We look forward to a successful resolution of the remainder of the appeal period.

John Cheretis, Evan Singer, and Jeffrey Meehan of Jones Day represented a U.S. Army Veteran seeking service-connection for a cervical spine disability following injuries he sustained from an assault during service in Germany in 1978. While the Veteran did seek treatment for injuries following the attack, including bruising to the face, swollen eye, and bloody nose, and thereafter for spine pain (low back and cervical), the VA had denied the Veteran’s claims finding that his current cervical spine disability was not related to service.

Victory Lap

Board of Veterans' Appeals Remands from the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

The volunteer attorneys provided a cogent and persuasive brief that detailed each element of service-connection and established that the Veteran's testimony regarding onset and continuity of symptoms was credible—especially when coupled with the multiple corroborating buddy statements. Unfortunately, the Board remanded for records (which had already been demonstrated do not exist), and in so doing, made statements that could potentially be detrimental to the subsequent development in the case. Undeterred, the volunteer attorneys tenaciously sought a Request for Reconsideration at the Board — carefully outlining the error and requested remedy.

In the Board's subsequent decision, it fully considered the merits of both the initial argument and the reconsideration—as well as new development which had occurred while the reconsideration was pending—yet, the Board still determined it was unable to make a determination and remanded the case once again. Nevertheless, guided by the two arguments provided by the attorneys in support of the Veteran's appeal, the VA Regional Office granted the benefits sought less than a month after the Board's remand decision. The award of service-connection for a cervical spine disability with secondary radiculopathy effective March 2014 resulted in a retroactive benefit of \$214,825 to the Veteran.



NVLSP Director of Training and Publications Rick Spataro and NVLSP Of Counsel Tom Herthel at NASDVA Midwinter Meeting.

Peter Evangelatos, Caitlin Dean, Leah Butterfield, and Lexi Whichard of Kirkland represented a U.S. Air Force Veteran with service from February 1969 to January 1973 as an Aircraft Mechanic Specialist. The Veteran was service-connection for PTSD since April 2009 due to his combat service in Vietnam, but had been seeking an increased evaluation for his PTSD since May 2016. The volunteer attorneys argued for an increased evaluation, to include a total (100%) disability rating based on the Veteran's severe and pervasive symptoms, including suicidal ideation. The volunteer attorneys provided an argument detailing the Veteran's experiences in service, and his challenges in his life and work following service, including his attempts to bury his symptoms in work. The attorneys also worked diligently with the Veteran on a statement regarding the severity of his symptoms and VA forms regarding his work history (as impacted by his PTSD). The Board granted the Veteran a total (100%) disability rating for his PTSD symptoms based on the evidence and argument provided. This award resulted in a retroactive benefit of \$262,802.

Victory Lap

Board of Veterans' Appeals Remands from the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Tim Burke, Elisabeth Grippando, and Owen Hosseinzadeh of Morgan Lewis represented the surviving spouse of a U.S. Army Veteran who served from September 1967 to April 1970, including service in Vietnam. VA had conceded exposure to herbicides, but denied the Veteran's claims for bilateral foot and hand disabilities including peripheral neuropathy due to herbicide exposure. This case presented many different theories of entitlement, including as secondary to herbicide exposure, the Veteran's service-connected ischemic heart disease, PTSD, and TBI. The volunteer attorneys expertly presented a concise brief focusing on the clearest theory of service-connection as etiologically related to herbicide exposure. In so doing, the Board also focused its decision on these facts and awarded entitlement to service-connection for the Veteran's bilateral foot and hand neuropathy. This resulted in a retroactive award to the Veteran of \$55,385.

Colby Allsbrook and Vann Pearce of Orrick represented the surviving spouse of a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran. The Veteran served at Camp Lejeune during the years that there was known water contamination and he also had conceded exposure to Perchloroethylene (PCE), trichloroethylene (TCE), vinyl chloride, and benzene. The spouse sought entitlement to service-connection for glioblastoma on behalf of her husband, who passed away while his claim was pending, as well as her own survivor's benefits. The volunteer attorneys obtained an expert medical opinion in this case addressing the Veteran's many toxic exposures and the development of his glioblastoma.

With a favorable medical opinion, the attorneys also argued that all prior VA medical opinions are inadequate and therefore had no probative value. After the Board remanded, the VA Regional Office ultimately found the expert medical opinion obtained by the attorneys to be the most probative medical evidence, and found in the spouse's favor. The VA awarded service-connection for glioblastoma to the spouse as a substitute claimant on behalf of the Veteran, and also awarded the spouse entitlement to Dependency and Indemnity Compensation ("DIC")—a survivor's benefit paid when the Veteran's death is a result of service and/or service-connected causes. These awards resulted in a retroactive benefit of \$185,248, and will also provide an on-going monthly benefit of approximately \$1,700 (subject to cost-of-living increases).

Bill Bradley and Kyle Hepner of Robinson+Cole represented a U.S. Air Force Veteran who served from May 1990 to December 2000 with subsequent Air Force Reserve service. The Veteran was service-connected for pes planus and had sought an appropriate evaluation since 2019. The volunteer attorneys argued that the Board misapplied the rating criteria and overlooked critical evidence. In addressing the correct standards and the relevant, favorable medical opinions and evidence in this case, the attorneys rendered a persuasive argument for an increased evaluation before the Board. The Board granted entitlement to an increased evaluation effective November 2019, which produced a retroactive benefit of \$16,942 for the Veteran.

Victory Lap

Board of Veterans' Appeals Remands from the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

Patrick O'Brien, Tiffany Mallakis, and Sanaa Jain of Ropes & Gray represented a U.S. Marine Corps Veteran who served from September 1988 to July 1992, including in combat. This Veteran's claim involved service-connection for his left knee disability. While the case immediately concerned VA's treatment of the Veteran's testimony and inadequate medical opinions, the attorneys also identified that a statement from the Veteran would be helpful on remand to address perceived gaps in the record. In their argument, the attorneys addressed the inadequacies of VA medical opinions and bolstered the Veteran's competent and credible testimony. The Board remanded to obtain a new medical opinion, but this time, that examiner had the full benefit of the Veteran's prepared statement. As a result, the VA awarded entitlement to service-connection for the left knee disability, producing a retroactive benefit of \$58,570 for the Veteran.

Kelly Eberspecher and Jake Michalakes of Steptoe represented a U.S. Army Veteran who served on active duty in Vietnam as an airborne infantry soldier. As a result of his exposure to Agent Orange, the Veteran developed prostate cancer, which the VA recognized as service-connected. The VA originally assigned the Veteran a 100% disability rating which was later reduced to 40%. The volunteer attorneys argued to the Board that the Veteran's prostate cancer never actually went into remission, making the reduction in rating improper.

The Board agreed, noting that no clinical evidence demonstrated that the Veteran's prostate cancer had gone into remission and restored his disability rating to 100%, effective October 1, 2020. As a result, the Veteran received retroactive benefits totaling \$146,203.55.

Todd Rouse, Kasey Lee, and Adam Greenfield of White & Case represented the surviving spouse of a U.S. Navy Veteran with service June 1962 to June 1981, including service in Vietnam where he was exposed to herbicides. At the time of the Veteran's death, he had carried a long-standing diagnosis of hypertension, and was unfortunately also suffering from dementia and advanced Alzheimer's Disease and had suffered a trans-ischemic attack one month prior to his passing. The Veteran was not service-connected for his hypertension prior to his passing. Nevertheless, the spouse had asserted that his cause of death was a result of his military service.

On remand from the CAVC, the volunteer attorneys worked diligently with the surviving spouse to help her on her claim and advance the appropriate theories and evidence. The attorneys obtained an expert medical opinion which demonstrated that the Veteran's hypertension was related to his Vietnam service and described the multi-link causal chain between his hypertension and his ultimate cause of death.



Victory Lap

Board of Veterans' Appeals Remands from the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

In addition, the attorneys prepared an argument, incorporating the medical opinion, and arguing that all prior medical opinions had been inadequate and therefore were not probative. The Board granted the surviving spouse's appeal and awarded service-connection for the cause of the Veteran's death, thereby entitling her to survivor's benefits known as Dependency and Indemnity Compensation ("DIC"). This produced a retroactive award to the spouse of \$128,158, and an on-going monthly benefit of approximately \$1,700 (subject to cost-of-living increases).

Daniella Rosello and **Scott Border** of **Winston Taylor** represented a U.S. Army infantryman with service from May 2003 to September 2002, and again from February 2003 to October 2003, including a deployment to Iraq. The Veteran sought entitlement to service-connection for his knee, hip, and back claims since 2014. He was eventually awarded service-connection for bilateral knees disabilities, and continued to pursue back and hip pain. He submitted a medical opinion linking his back and hip disabilities to his bilateral knee disability and service-connected bilateral plantar fasciitis. Unfortunately, throughout a long course of appeals, VA continued to deny the hip and back claims. The volunteer attorneys argued on remand that the evidence of record was sufficient to grant entitlement to service-connection for his hip and back disabilities. They also argued that the effective date of the claims should be the date of the Veteran's initial VA disability claims, March 2014.

As a direct result of the work product submitted by the attorneys, the Board granted entitlement to service-connection for a hip and back disability effective April 2014. He was awarded \$79,780 in retroactive disability benefits.



Pictured from left to right NVLSP Leadership and Staff: Bart Stichman (Co-Founder and Special Counsel), Rochelle Bobroff (Director of Lawyers Serving Warriors @Pro Bono Program), Stacy Tromble (Director of CAVC Litigation), Christine Cote Hill (Special Counsel), Paul Wright (Executive Director), Louis George (Director of VSO Liaison Services), Ana Reyes (Director of Development) and Rick Spataro (Director of Training and Publications).

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

LSW extends our sincere appreciation to all partner law firms and corporations that accepted cases, projects, limited scope opportunities, and staffed clinics in 2025. With this pro bono support, LSW set a new record by placing 659 full-scope direct veteran representation matters. Additionally, LSW placed a record number of brief services, limited scope file reviews, and projects, with 2,160 placements. This report lists the names of volunteers who accepted matters in 2025 and provides a summary description of the types of matters accepted by partner firms and corporations.

A&O Shearman: 149 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Saralyn Cohen, Jennifer White-Callaghan, Lauren Fishman, Macarry Pobanz

A&O Shearman accepted 4 discharge upgrade matters and 145 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Nick Chesrown

Pedro de Elizalde

Sebastian de la Puente

Dimitar Grozdanov

Mallory Tosch Hoggatt

John McBride

Eugene Pevzner

Ilona Potiha Laor

Adam Schwartz

Riley Steele

Sanjna Ulla

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Akerman: 29 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Gina DelChiaro, Jeremy Burnette, Giselle Burke

Akerman accepted 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation case, 1 discharge upgrade matter, and 27 discharge upgrade file review matters, partnering with Bank of America on 10 of the file reviews.

Ashley Akapo
Thea Alli
Brittanie Browning
Jeremy Burnette
Ellen Castillo
Alyaa Chace
Steven Chudnow
Mel Cole
Gina DelChiaro
Gabriel Delgado
Jorge Delgado
Emily Doan
Aissa Dorange
Kristen Fiore
Katrina Flores
Rachel Gillooly
Valerie Greenberg

John Hood
Alicia Hou
Robin Johnson
Amanda Klopp
Jennifer Kramer
Gianna Laezzo
Ben Lancaster
Robin Pipkins
Spencer Sater
Santiago Lopez
Trish MacAskill
Spencer Malley
Josh Mandell
Jason Margolin
Gabriel Marinaro
Jim McCaan

Emma Nargi
Dakota Newton
Doug Paul
Jasmine Pitt
Kimberly Seay
Jordan Smith
Max Sonnenberg
Wallace Stage
Frank St. Jacques
John Thompson
Kelly Truong
Kerry Valdez
Philip Weingold
Elissa Weiss
Jeff White
Jenna Yoss

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Akin: 11 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Lauren Connell, Randi Brisman, Mikayla Durham, Steven Schulman

Akin accepted 5 Combat-Related Special Compensation matters and 5 discharge upgrade matters.
Akin also assisted NVLSP with a research project.

Elizabeth Atkins

Madison Bauer

Casey Braden

Michael Chen

Sean Conway

Taylor Daly

Tenley Dickey

Michael DiLernia

Niki Dost

Rachel Elsby

Eric Gambrell

Chris Gessner

Uri Itkin

Melissa Kinsmore-

Ward

Cecilia Li

Kaitlyn Marasi

Remi Mehner

Corinne Musa

Halle Nahoum

Katherine Padgett

Ed Pagano

Reid Pickett

Lauren Rubin

Lynn Sherwood

Stan Stanulonis

Harris Stephens

Justin Szeto

Joseph Szydlo

Alexandra Van Cleef

Ava Vecellio

Jason Weil

Iain Wood

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Alston & Bird: 87 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Mary Benton, Darcy McLean

Alston & Bird accepted 3 cases at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, 2 discharge upgrade matters, and 82 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Nino Aspanadze
Carter Babaz
Morey Barnes Yost
Juan Bernal
Kathleen Benway
Craig Bernesser
Kennedy Bodnarek
Charlotte Bohn
Kayla Butler
Ethan Calhoun
Colony Canady
Kelli Cappucci
Erik Carlson
Kyle Ceuninck
Jennifer Cieluch
Braden Copeland
Daniel Cordero
Blake Crohan
Josh Dhyani
Martin Dozier

Christopher Douglas
Virginia Dunbar
Jerome Felton
Maddie Felts
Anoush Garakani
Alexis Higgs
Kristin Hinson
Henderson Heussner
Michelle Jackson
David Keating
Matt Kelsey
Thomas Kelly
Jacob Z. Koenigson
Sloane Kyrasis
Brian Laine
Claire Lieberman
Kaylan Meaza
Ashley Menser
Eser Ozgur
Krishna Pathak

Eric Pettis
Ryan Philp
Rick Pilch
Tiffany L. Qu
Henry M. Reynolds
Ellie Saathoff
Kimberly Schiffman
Filmon Sexton
Kristin Shepard
Kirby Shilling
Dorian Simmons
Josh Trosch
Michael Valerio
Anna Von Spakovsky
Matt Walsh
Emily Welch
Eric Xie
John Zarrilli

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Amazon: 11 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Stephanie Tan

Amazon accepted 11 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Aon: 1 matter

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Rebecca Knight, Erin Brotzler

Aon accepted 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation matter.

Frank LaVaglia

Arnold & Porter: 156 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Marsha Tucker, Rwanda Campbell, Lucy McMillan, Rosa Rad

Arnold & Porter accepted 3 discharge upgrade matters, 2 Combat-Related Special Compensation matters, and 143 discharge upgrade file review matters. Arnold & Porter also interviewed 8 veterans at a virtual discharge upgrade clinic. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases.

Sara Adler

Juliet Alpert

Walter Allison

James Attonito

Albert Boardman

Scott Berson

Estayvaine Bragg

David Caine

Greg Caramencio

Mikaela Cardillo

Mary Cassidy

Sydney Chan

Eun Young Choi

Victoria Choi

Alex Cohen

Sean Corrado

Matthew Cudrin

Amy DeWitt

Stephen Driscoll

George Eichelberger

Matt Eisenstein

David Emmanuelson

Debbie Feinstein

Eric Fell

Lynn Fischer Fox

Therese Fox

Jordan Funke

Justin Garrett

Kathryn Geoffroy

Andre Geverola

Axel Gutermuth

Brian Haan

Owen Haney

Gregory Harrington

Dina Hayes

Melida Hodgson

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Arnold & Porter: 156 matters (Continued)

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Marsha Tucker, Rwanda Campbell, Lucy McMillan, Rosa Rad

Arnold & Porter accepted 3 discharge upgrade matters, 2 Combat-Related Special Compensation matters, and 143 discharge upgrade file review matters. Arnold & Porter also interviewed 8 veterans at a virtual discharge upgrade clinic. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases.

Alyssa Hogan

Ariane Horn

Justin Imperato

Stacie Jeong

Woosuk Jeong

Kevin Jordan

Stanley Kaminsky

Stephanie Kelly

AJay Kim

Rachel Kless

Daniel Kracov

Garret Kraus

Aaron Lehrfield

Yihuan Li

Joe Lipper

Daniel Lisk

Kathryn Olson

Patrick Owens

Darryl Pae

Becca Rozen

Nora Schneider

Matthew Schultz

Ian Schwartz

Rafe Serouya

Alexander Shaknes

Dave Sheikh

Anne Elizabeth Soh

Zoe Staum

Hope Swantko

Matthew Tabas

Aishwarya Totad

Jonathan Trinh

Ryan Trombley

Rhonda Trotter

Archana Vasa

Alexander Weaver

Kathleen Wechter

Matt Wilk

Olivia Winkler

Tom Yadlon

John Young

Hyunsu Park

Chris Pearlman

Christopher Peterson

Maxwell Pitagno

Susan Rabinowitz

Brady Randall

Lisa Re

Ryan Roberts

Tim Roche

Samantha Rodriguez

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Ballard Spahr: 3 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Lisa Swaminathan

Ballard Spahr accepted 2 cases at the Board of Veterans' Appeals and 1 discharge upgrade case.

Todd Brannon

Olu Lawal

Matt Smith

Jimmy Zack

Bank of America: 22 matters

Pro Bono Contact: Vince Doa

Bank of America accepted 22 discharge upgrade file review matters, 10 with partner Akerman and 12 with partner Bradley.

Laida Alarcon

Dawn Anderson

Angel Berry

Judith Beall

Suzanne Garrison

Tjeresa (Terry) Irvin

Allison Layson

Marcia Schaubert

Jennifer Tallmadge

Dew Uwadia

Joanna Wade

Bodman: 1 matter

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Julie Nichols

A new LSW partner in 2025, Bodman accepted 1 case at the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Kathryn Moore

Jeff Raphelson

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Boehringer: 24 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Matt Fisher

A new LSW partner in 2025, Boehringer accepted 5 Combat-Related Special Compensation matters and 19 discharge upgrade file review matters with partner King & Spalding.

Carolyn Alenci	Nathan Gallup	Leslie Moscatello
Carolyn Bates	Jane Ann Harrison	Nancy O'Grady
Alison Benincasa	Nancy Harrison	Mike Okrentowich
Anna Boccuzzi	Ken Kalafus	Esther Park
Lisa Brenner	David Kershner	Aline Pesch
Sonia Christie	Justin Kim	Laura Pleskatcheva
Jill Collins	Tae Kim	Adam Price
Karen Cullina	Michelle Lagana	Lindsay Reese
Greg Dadika	Sam Lipton	Kimberly Rose
Phil Datlow	Andrea Lockenour	Eric Saharig
Karen Dear	Shanyun Lu	Nimisha Shah
Karen Dibble Flaherty	Mike Mahoney	Suzanne Shope
Nina Dillon	Linda Mancini	Allie Spinetti
David Dopf	Paulette Mara	Timea Strukova
Zella Ertl	Waneta Marple	Ryan Sullivan
John Ezcurra	Michelle Mateus	Brian Tildon
Matt Fisher	Jeanette McConnell	Sue Wasilko
Debbie Forster	Nina Molinari	Paula Wittmayer

BP: 5 matters

BP interviewed 5 veterans at a virtual clinic with partner Hunton. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their TSGLI cases.

Felicia Barnes	William Lockhart
Ron Gizzi	Samuel Wieczorek
Christina Landgraf	

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Bracewell: 24 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Pamela Brantley Dunnings, Bob Wagman, Gene Elrod

Bracewell accepted 4 medical retirement matters, 2 cases at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and 18 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Faren Bartholomew

Jacob Brandes

Pamela Brantley Dunnings

Garrett Clark

Gene Elrod

Cam Moody

Mandi Moroz

Camille Ng

Timothy J. Scully

Sam Spencer

Robert J. Wagman Jr.

Bradley: 12 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Tiffany Graves

Bradley accepted 12 discharge upgrade file review matters with partner Bank of America.

Delaney Beier

Will Burgess

Sarah Beth Cain

Catherine Grow

Eric Halpern

Caroline Kerr

Dana Lumsden

Jack Pease

Hunter Pearce

Ted Pearce

Stevie Rushing

Grant Williamson

Brown Rudnick: 3 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Becca Foley, Sara Perrotti

Brown Rudnick accepted 3 cases at the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Katherine Dearing

Joshua Whitehill

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Capital One: 15 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Claire Murray, Bella Mekker

Capital One accepted 6 discharge upgrade file review matters and partnered with Hunton on 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation case and 1 discharge upgrade case. Capital One also partnered with Hunton to interview 7 veterans at a virtual discharge upgrade clinic. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases.

Emily Daniels

Barret Diefenderfer

Tyler DiMarino

Erin Dowling

Julia Duke

Melissa Hager

Elizabeth Kim

Meghan Ingrisano

Maggie Martin

Claire Murray

Jana Nataraj

Liz Oke

Lisa Rossi

Ronan Searle

Alesia Sharman

Alyssa Smith

Nick Treviso

Clair Viglione

Nydia Pulley

Chapman and Cutler: 2 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Sara Ghadiri

Chapman and Cutler accepted 2 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases.

Mike Lee

Michael Myones

Chevron: 5 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Andrea Hogan, Grace Ho

Chevron accepted 5 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Tracy Garcia

Tara Jamieson

Mike Lodge

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Cleary: 6 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Andrew Darcy, Yudany Oviedo, Edgar Ramirez, Byron Spring

A new LSW partner in 2025, Cleary accepted 1 discharge upgrade matter and 5 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Andrew Schaengold

Kerry Mullins

Andrew Weaver

Clifford Chance: 7 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Celeste Koeleveld, Pierce Vo, Jordan Passmore

Clifford Chance accepted 7 cases before the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Cormac O'Halloran

Jordan Passmore

Dennis Morrisroe

Sung Shin

Sophia Navedo-Quinones

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Covington & Burling: 47 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Kelly Voss, Jorge Escobedo

A leading LSW partner, Covington volunteers accepted 17 discharge upgrade cases, 6 Combat-Related Special Compensation matters, 4 medical retirement matters, 1 litigation matter, 1 TSGLI matter, 3 matters at the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and 3 matters at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Covington also assisted NVLSP with 2 research projects.

Covington hosted a virtual discharge upgrade clinic where volunteers interviewed 10 veterans from across the country. The veterans met with Covington pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases.

Jay Alexander	Jemie Fofanah	Brian Reiser
Funmi Anifowoshe-Manning	Jason Fowler	Monty Roberson
Shara Aranoff	Brendon Francis	Matthew Rohrback
Drew Bailey	Kevin Gauch	Ben Rolsma
Lawrence Barker	Matt Glover	Darby Rourick
Stephanie Barna	Billy Goulston	Morgan Schreurs
Isaiah Bennett	Matt Harden	Matt Shapanka
Anna Venguer Benrey	Bob Haslam	Nicholas Shepherd
Jennifer Bentley	Jessica Hill	Margaret Shin
Rachel Bercovitz	Jerry Hodgkins	Jake Stark
Benjamin Block	Blair Hotz	Michael Stern
Luke Bohlinger	Grace Howard	Einar Stole
Kate Cahoy	Hannah Hummel	Sierra Stubbs
Ian Carrico	Amir Jones	Shawn Thibault
Peter Chen	Mel Kim	Andrew Timmick
Alex Chinoy	Robert Kim	Jonathan Wakely
Kiersten Choi	Jeff Lerner	Tracey Wang
Vivian Choi	Anders Linderot	Colin Watson
Michael Christ	Laura Martin	Scott Weidenfeller
Justin Coutts	Colin Milton	Andrew White
Larissa Davis	Krysten Rosen Moller	Abby Wright
Sophie DeBode	Marienna Murch	Olivia Xie
Andres Estevez	Andrew Nightingale	Noah Zimmermann
Steve Fisher	Sam Parker	Jacob Zuberi
Jackie Fitch	Matthew Quallen	

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Cozen O'Connor: 165 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Melinda Levine deLisle

Cozen O'Connor a leading NVLSP partner for appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, accepted 20 cases. Cozen further accepted 1 discharge upgrade matter and 144 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Zack Bradley
Michael Coburn
Mike DeRosa
Jerome Doctors
Jason Domark
Morgan Dyrek
Greg Eisenstark
Ashley Eldridge
Jessica Erickson
Taylor Evans
Jackie Glennon
Frank Gooch
Abigail Green
Ingrid Hopkinson
Matt Howell
Geng Hua
Naz Jalali
Chris Josten
Taylor Kasinkas
Jesse Keene
Barry Klayman
John Lamastra

Cindy Lee
Aaron Lukas
Divya Maharaj
Daniel Matos
Stephen Miller
Sam Mogensen
John Oh
Scott Pashman
Brandon Posivak
Miguel Pozo
Gianna Puccinelli
Neil Quartaro
Justin Risser
Rachel Schwartz
Kat Slough
Katie Sobotta
Maddie Suchard
Orla Thompson
Mistee Verhulp
Michael Weiss
Christina White

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Crowell & Moring: 16 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Susie Hoffman, Tiana Russell, Tara Singh, Tanaz Moghadam, Johnna Carey-Park

Crowell & Moring accepted 6 discharge upgrade cases and 2 litigation cases. Crowell also partnered with Mondelez to interview 8 veterans at a virtual discharge upgrade clinic. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases.

Christopher Albi
Charles Baek
Jon Baker
Stephen Bentfield
Cynthia Brady
Jaz Buckley
Weronika Bukowski
Kevin Caggiano
Jessica Chao
Josh Clark
Katie Clune
Stephanie Crawford
Doug Crockatt
Christian Curran
Bryan Dewan
Ryne Duffy
Ellen Dwyer
Eric Enson
Ryan Fitzgerald
Laura Foggan
Michael Gruden
Aryn Gruneisen
Ellen Halstead
Sigourney Haylock
Raija Horstman

Michael Jacobs
Ashleigh Kaspari
Tim Laderach
Mary LaFleur
Bob LaFrankie
Shawn Layman
David Lindner
Justin Lurie
Meredith Manuel
Ginna Martin
Laura Martinez
Jasmine Masri
Skye Mathieson
Steve McBrady
John McCarthy
Taylor McDaniels
Morgan McGuire
Holly Melton
Megan Michaels
Tashena Middleton
Melissa Moravec
Liam O'Reilly
Rayline Petitt
Nick Pung
Charlynn Rejaian

Donna Reuter
Dan Rich
Sarah Rippy
Nick Roberti
Michael Samuels
Heather Sanborn
Darren Schweitzer
Anthony Sciuto
Nirosha Sithirapathy
Allison Skager
Rebecca Suarez
Mark Supko
Elissa Tenenbaum
Ruta Trivedi
Maria Vanikiotis
Olivia Venus
Michael Vine
Anuj Vohra
Michelle Wang
Alexis Ward
Dilan Wickrema
Savanna Williams
Dan Zelenko

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Davis Wright Tremaine: 33 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: KellyAnne Brophy, Erika Parry

Davis Wright Tremaine accepted 2 Combat-Related Special Compensation matters and 3 matters at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Davis Wright Tremaine also accepted 28 discharge upgrade file review matters, partnering with T-Mobile on 10 of them.

Makenzie Barron
Moiz Bharmal
Michael T. Borgia
Nicholas J. Cicale
Matt Cooper
Patrick J. Curran Jr.
Jack Day
Lukas C. Dudkowski
Ardie Ermac
Jeff Giametta
Matthew C. Gurr
Paul B. Hudson
Peter S. Johnson
Leo Liu
Antonija Krizanac
Rebecca Lynch
Kasey McGee

Soraya Mohamed
Leslie C. Murphy
John C. Nelson Jr.
Lauren Nelson
Ellie Pakzad
Victoria Randazzo
David L. Rice
Marina Sansom
Katherine Sheriff
Elyse Sparks
Michael Treves
Nicholas Traver
Breck Wilmot
Sarah Wood
Jackson Yates
Noah D. Zimmerman

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Dechert: 129 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Suzie Turner

Dechert accepted 12 discharge upgrade cases, 6 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases, 2 medical retirement administrative appeals, and 1 litigation matter. In addition, Dechert accepted 107 discharge upgrade file review matters. Dechert also assisted NVLSP with a research project.

Adesulu Adewole	John Clifford	Robert Gregory
Victor Adeniran	Riley Compton	Brooke Guven
Jerry Ahn	Leigh Cortez	Rani Habash
David Aloyts	David Cosgrove	Brian Hanna
Beverly Ang	Blair Cox	Kalina Hannsz
Jeremy Arce	Kristina D'Angelo	Ian Hartman
Ari Abramovitz	Emma Davies	Leah Herring
Joseph Arico	Nick Dawson	Baxton High
Brendan Avila	Joseph Dudley	Phil Hinkle
Mary Bear	Chris Duerden	Claire Hinshaw
Sam Biermann	Jeff Edwards	Fariha Hossain
Jay Bhimani	Blake Ellis	Kristin Humphreys
Jonathan Blaha	Keegan Farley	Kenneth Hunter
Tom Bogle	Josh Fleming	Jannay Jordan
Sonia Brunstad	Jim Fishkin	Jay Jurata
Jessica Bula	Sinead Flynn	Aaron Kamsler
Chris Burton	Jaime Freedman	William Kearney
Brendan Carroll	Bob Frink	Anthony Kelly
James Catano	Brenna Gaffney	Howard Klein
Chris Christian	Sharon Gagliardi	Alvin Knight
Laura Ciabarra	Gavin Garcia	Taylor Knowles
John Clifford	Sydney Gentry	Parker Lacoste
Riley Compton	Shayna Gilmore	Esther Larios
Leigh Cortez	Brett Goble	Tyler Lee
David Cosgrove	Brian Goldberg	Chris Lehmann
Blair Cox	Jess Goldman	Cooper Lewis
Kristina D'Angelo	Taylor Griffin	Olivia Lin
Emma Davies	Michael Griffith	Remy Lotero
Nick Dawson	Eric Green	Greg Luib

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Dechert: 129 matters (Continued)

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Suzie Turner

Dechert accepted 12 discharge upgrade cases, 6 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases, 2 medical retirement administrative appeals, and 1 litigation matter. In addition, Dechert accepted 107 discharge upgrade file review matters. Dechert also assisted NVLSP with a research project.

Matt Lussier	Deanna Palma	Michael Song
Neel Maitra	Grey Pappas	Jay Southgate
Chaim Manne	Frank Pecorelli	Jake Stavsky
Marisa Mariencheck	David Pelaez	Marley Strauss
Virginia McDaniels	Javier Perez Rodriguez	Devin Swaney
Allison Meade	Stephanie Petras	Emily Towill
Shekina Medalla	Leigh Pisane-Cortez	Donna Tram
Rachael Minassian	Steven Polyakov	Inna Vysman
Amanda Motley	Christian Robledo	Audrey Wagner
Lea Moustakas	Corey Rose	Cal White
Michael Mulvey	Louis Rosenbaum	Morgan Willard
Sydney Myers-O'Brien	Nicole Rosker	Seth Worthen
Maxwell Newman	Jason Rozes	Cindy Wu
Vince Nguyen	Stephen Rutman	Laura Xie
Regina Noonan	Marina Schwarz	Felicia Yip
Nimisha Noronha	Ryan Sebastianelli	Eric Zeng
Jennifer O'Brien	Mansi Seth	Anne Zwarg
Summer Oh	Robert Shapiro	
Davina Okonkwo	Kandace Smith	
Jacinta Onu	Alexandrea Somers	

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

DLA Piper: 140 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Rich Gruenberger, Lisa Dewey, Gianni Minutoli, Donna Look, Lindsay Ayers

DLA is a leading LSW partner for discharge upgrade and Combat-Related Special Compensation cases. DLA accepted 26 CRSC cases, teaming with T-Mobile on 2 and with RTX on 1. DLA also accepted 26 discharge upgrade cases, teaming with Honeywell on 1 and RTX on 1. DLA additionally accepted 63 discharge upgrade file review matters. DLA further accepted 3 cases at the Board of Veterans' Appeals and 1 litigation matter.

DLA Piper hosted 2 virtual discharge upgrade clinics, interviewing a total of 21 veterans. DLA teamed with Honeywell to interview 10 of the veterans. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases.

Andrew Andrzejewski
Jade Bainborough
Joey Baruh
Charlie Bell
Kirk Bennett
Brittany Bolden
Seth Bonneau
Alex Carlson
Ashley Carr
John Caruolo
Dylan Clancy
Melissa Coombes
Madeline Cordray
Thomas Corrigan
Stephen Cosenza
Andrew Current
Hayley Curry
Matt Danaher
Chris Darby
Michael Davis
Charlie Dewey
Chris Duerden

Ryan Estes
Teresa Estrada
Eric Falkenberry
Raul Farias
David Farkas
Christian Ford
Matt Ganas
Elise Green
Stefan Greenewald
Negin Hadaghian
Eli Halloway
Michael Haworth
Jude Hoag
Reema Holz
Geoff Howell
Blake Jackson
Melanie Kaufman
Joseph Kim
Jon Kinney
Megan Kinney
Holly Kipp
Neeraj Kirpalani

Nick Klein
Sam Knowles
Cecily Kruger
Billy LaFortune
Christine Lentz
Chris Lorimer
Kristina Fernandez Mabrie
Michael Madigan
Pete Maggiore
Natacha Massih
Celeste Matthews
Michael McGuinness
Lauren McNeel
Oriana Montani
Caroline Montfort
Charlize Morgan
Rick Mulloy
Stephanie O'Byrne
Kenneth Oku
Isabelle Ord

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

DLA Piper: 140 matters (Continued)

Matt Schwartz	Kyle Orne	Allison Velez
Marc Siegel	Maria Parafestas	Michael Walsh
Claire Smith	Andrew Peck	Bethany Weitzman
Eric Speed	Boris Pesin	Angela Whitesell
Elizabeth Steinborn	Brooke Reinhardt	Zach Winer
Sangwon Sung	James Ring	Andrew Wolfe
Inna Torres	Erin Rivera	Becca Xu
Jade Toth	Elizabeth Sack	Bu Yin
Willem Vandermeulen	Deyanira Cuellar Sandoval	Leonard Yoo
		Pete Young

Dorsey & Whitney: 7 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Alysia Zens, Alex MacFarlane

A new LSW partner in 2025, Dorsey & Whitney accepted 1 discharge upgrade matter and 6 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Ashley Bradley	Jacqueline Franolich	Kristina Maude
Nicole Brindejonc	Laura Goforth	Diane McDermaid
Paula Ortiz Cardona	Daniel Jackstadt	Erin Regan
	Christina Kuhn	Kate Zurcher

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Dykema: 7 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Heidi Naasko, Amy Eller

Dykema accepted 5 cases at the Board of Veterans' Appeals and 2 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Cooper Barling	Jonathan Meulemans	Cody Rockey
Kayleigh Gerber	Rob Pollock	Chris Sakauye
Gavin Hill	Cliff Riley	Courtney Ung
David Kinder	Katy Jo Richards	Deron Wade

Eversheds Sutherland: 19 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Harmony Jones, Aileen Crowson

Eversheds Sutherland accepted 8 cases at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, 4 discharge upgrade matters, and 7 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Nana Amoo	Jonathan Freimann	John Ramirez
Anna Hargett Awad	Carolyn Garcia	Megan Ramirez
Michael Bahar	Xenia Garofalo	Douglas Reckamp
Brian Basso	Luke Habeeb	Mike Resnick
Chris Bloomfield	Nicholas Hillman	Michael Rogers
Jeremy Bloomstone	Ian Jones	Brian Rubin
Logan Booth	Isabella LeBlanc	Valerie Sanders
Kathleen Boyle	Zack Lindsey	Ellen Sheridan-Cona
Erin Broderick	Isabella LeBlanc	Jim Silliman
Adam Byrne	Zack Lindsey	Paige Spraker
Helena Choi	Zia Liu	Henrik Strand
John (Jack) Crockett	John Lomas	John Verderame
Junie Dalice	Ellen McElroy	Samantha Wood
Anthony Del Giudice	Rich Noland	Ron Zdrojeski
		Karl Zeswitz

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Faegre Drinker: 40 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Candace Whitaker, Gary Thompson, Megan McKinney

Faegre Drinker accepted 11 discharge upgrade matters (2 with partner Optum), 7 Combat-Related Special Compensation matters, 1 medical retirement administrative appeal, 1 litigation matter, 4 appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and 6 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Faegre Drinker additionally partnered with Optum to interview 10 veterans at a virtual discharge upgrade clinic. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases.

Joan A. Akalaonu
Shane Anderson
Harrison H. Baker
J. Louise Bonner
Erik H. Breitenbach
Heather Burke
Abigail Butler
Mary Devlin Capizzi
Dylan Clancy
Kristina A. Coleman
Rory F. Collins
Suzette N. Copeland
Kasia Crain
Matthew Doyle
Renee Dudek
Kareem Elsheryie
Megan Farooqui
Owyn Ferguson
Kennedy Ferry
Anthony Finnell
Zach Fini

Eric Friedman
Mihajlo Gasic
Mike Gustafson
Susan Haag
Shannon Haen
Joie Hand
Jacob Hauschild
Kristine Hensley
Morgan Howard
Patrick D. Hughes
David H. Jiang
Jeff Johnson
Ross Johnson
Max Kelln
Craig Komaneki
Allison Kolberg
David Koller
Blake Lehr
Alecks Lewis
Jena Lisowski
Sari M. Long

RoxAnn Mack
Alexander M. MacPhee
Jackie Marasco
Josh Matushin
Kip McDonald
Bailey McNamara
Carolyn McNiven
Ryan Messina
Maggie M. Mills
Rob Molina
Katlyn M. Moseley
Kiera Murphy
Peter Nielsen
Vilena Nicolet
Michelle Paninopoulos
Carlye Patterson
Lisa Perunovich
TJ Powell
Kaitlin Prior
Yusuf H. Qureshi

Robin Rank
Tyler Romero
Rana Salem
Joel D. Sayres
Athanasius Sirilla
Sarah E. Silveira
Elizabeth Slama
Noel Spencer
Whitney A. Thompson
Theresa Tischer
Lucas J. Tomsich
Thu Duc Tran
Sarah Vandelist
Jay Warmuth
Lisa Weigel
Charles Westerhaus
Jenna Wilson
Vanessa Wilson
Alyssa S. Wolf
Alex Yim
Nathaniel Zylstra

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Fenwick: 12 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Erika Fairfield

Fenwick accepted 1 discharge upgrade matter and 11 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Nick Agostino

Alexandra Cirra

Cortnay Cymrot

Aaron Dunn

Shannon Forde

Lily Rose Henien

Noah Howard

Ryan Johnson

Thomas Kang

Kevin McGann

Sarah Meyers

Geoff Miller

Charles Nwaogu

Patrick Paulsen

Tessa Placa

Joseph Schenck

Mary Sims

Olivia Stein

Michael Yoon

Finnegan: 4 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Tom Sullivan

Finnegan accepted 3 discharge upgrade matters and 1 medical retirement litigation matter.

Paul Browning

Rachel Dorfner

Dara Emami

Jonathan Fagan

Alex Harding

Kelly Horn

Joseph Myles

Ryan O'Quinn

Shannon Patrick

Morgan Smith

Thomas Sullivan

Matthew Weirich

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Fisher Phillips: 4 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Corey Goerd

A new LSW partner in 2025, Fisher Phillips accepted 1 discharge upgrade matter and 3 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Amanda Brown
Madeline Hicks
Landon Schwob
Lauren Brandt-Quire

Nakota Wood
Matthew Costello
Greg Grisham
Amber Peters

Foley Hoag: 3 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Rebecca Cazabon, Nathaniel McPherson

Foley Hoag accepted 2 medical retirement administrative appeals and 1 medical retirement litigation matter.

Spenser Angel
Sarah Burg
Caroline Farrell
John Lanza

Nate McPherson
Alison Neugebauer
Valerie Orellana
Kenny Peralta

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Freshfields: 5 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Rebecca Kerr

Freshfields accepted 5 discharge upgrade matters.

Emily Abbott

Juan Amado Aranda

Matt Azzopardi

Hal Brewster

Ashley Brown

Eric Bruce

Tim Clark

Andrew Dockham

Taylor Frazier

Marvin Galloway

Sydney Hallisey

Rosie Jiang

Gabriela Rivera

Matt Rublin

Loren Terry

Julia Wang

Pik Yi Wong

Gibson Dunn: 16 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Katie Marquart, Mark Cherry, Ariana Sañudo, Patty Herold

Gibson Dunn accepted 6 discharge upgrade matters, 6 medical retirement administrative appeals, 2 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases, and 2 medical retirement litigation matters.

George Adams III

Ed Batts

Alana Bevan

Ben Betner

Jerry Blevins

Krystyna Blakeslee

Brian Buroker

Daniella Cass

Tim Dragonette

Grace Feitshans

Alexander Fischer

Stacie Fletcher

James Fogelman

Joseph Gorman

Nick Harper

Amir Heidari

Amir Heidari

Michael Holmes

Neema Jalali

Kunal Jhaveri

Jessie Levin

Jane Love

Vivian Lu

Nathan Marak

Dan Nelson

Teddy Okechukwu

Jen Pan

Kelley Pettus

Akiva Reich

Marquan Robertson

Andrew Robb

Lauren Romagnoli

Mariella Rutigliano

Laura Stanley

Jeffrey Steiner

Julia Tabat

Karin Thrasher

John Tienken

Natalia Toh

Lucas Townsend

Todd Truesdale

Harrison Tucker

Maggie Valachovic

Eugene Woo

Paul Yu

Michelle Zhu

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Haynes Boone: 1 matter

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Rachel Elkin

A new LSW partner in 2025, Haynes Boone accepted 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation matter.

Amanda Bombino

Chelsea Corey

John Tanner

Hogan Lovells Cadwalader: 50 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Aidan Coleman

A leading partner for all case types, Hogan Lovells Cadwalader accepted 21 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases, 7 TSGLI cases, 6 medical retirement administrative appeals, 1 medical retirement litigation matter, 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation litigation matter, and 13 discharge upgrade file review matters. Hogan Lovells Cadwalader also assisted NVLSP with a research project.

Anishiya Abrol
Stephanie Agu
Brittney Ajaj
Anneke Altieri
Oliver Armas
Matthew Bakios
Paget Barranco
Michael Basse
Jennifer Bevilacqua
Lexi Bender
James Bernard
Jamie Bernard
Lauren Berkebile
Isabella Bosetti
Carter Bowman
Madelyn Braman
Logan Breed
Adam Brown

Lacy Brown
Noah Brown
Ted Brown
Ryan Campbell
Lucia Cadavid Arango
Madison Cash
Johannah Cassel Walker
John Castle
Aaron Crane
Celine Crowson
Isabelle Dean
Tim DeKeyser
Emma Dowell
Kevin Downey
Erin Drenning
David Duquette
Jovhann Egalite
Jessica Ellsworth

Jay Epstein
Caroline Farrington
Sydney Fay
David Feigenbaum
Chris Fitzpatrick
Andrea Fraser Reid
Ari Fridman
Tony Fuller
Rupinder Garcha
Joe Grdinovac
Leo Gomez
Vanessa Gomez
Yiming Gu
Bothwell Graham
Natalie Granda
Kevin Greenslade
Rose Grover
Stacy Hadeka

Xochitl Halaby
Kelly Heesch
Maggie Hedges
Caroline Hermann
Taylor Hillman
Misty Howell
Cameron Hughes
Thomas Hunt
Christine Jiha
Vera Jin
Ben Johnson
Jordyn Johnson
Gregory Kass
Stefan Krantz
Andrew Klokiw
Taylor Knowles
Michaela Kori
Ajay Kuntamukkala

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Hogan Lovells Cadwalader: 50 matters (Continued)

Nicholas Lauridsen	Morgan Perna	Cate Stetson
Mitch Lazris	Christine Pinnkathok	Jonathan Stulberg
Gabrielle Lesieur	John Powers	Nico Studebaker
Howard Levine	Noah Ramirez	Reedy Swanson
Al Lindsay	Les Reese	Jennifer Swan
Dave Locascio	Alaina Rodriguez	Claude Szyfer
Jason Lohr	Joanne Rotondi	Russell Tan
Cammie Lonsway	Ashley Ruhe	Isabelle Tatum
Chuck Loughlin	J A Sagar	Amber Trincado
Emma Kotfica	A J Santiago	Patience Tyne
Kate Mancuso	Zachary Sanfilippo	Bob Underwood
Brian Malat	Megan Scalia	James
Valerie Marshall	Julie Schindel	VanLandingham
Baily Martin	Randy Segal	Daniel Whalen
Lauren Massie	Eric Sega	Michael West
Michael Mason	Marissa Shaw	Tommy Wiltshire
Tom McGovern	Rachel Shelbourne	Kate Wozniak
Matthew Miller	Dave Sharfstein	Thomas Woolsey
Katy Milner	Erica Shuler	Matthew Zancewicz
Jamison Munns	Jagdeep Singh	Mark Ye
Komal Nigam	Tej Singh	Kelly Zhang
Allisa Newman	Polly Sims	Yi Zhang
Bruce Oakley	Jackson Skeen	Marianna Zabkowski
Lauren Olmsted	Melissa Skarjune	Sam Zwingli
Dave Olstein	Craig Smith	
Morgan Perna	Edward So	

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Holland & Hart: 2 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Teague Donahey

Holland & Hart accepted 2 matters at the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Teague Donahey

Holland & Knight: 3 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Gordon Griffin

Holland & Knight accepted 3 matters at the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Johanna Argyros
Jessica Farmer
Tom Gordon

Sara Klock
Dave Kully

Honeywell: 11 matters

Honeywell accepted 1 discharge upgrade matter with partner DLA Piper. Honeywell also partnered with DLA Piper to interview 10 veterans at a virtual discharge upgrade clinic. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases.

Mary Frances Dennis
Ken Franklin
Nick Going
Kaitlyn Haase

Cherae Jones
Caitlyn Owens
Taylor Thomas
Falkner Werkhaven

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Hunton: 42 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Kevin Gaunt, Maeve Malik, Toni Poole

Hunton is a leading LSW partner for Combat-Related Special Compensation, TSGLI, and medical retirement cases. Hunton accepted 17 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases, 2 TSGLI cases, 3 medical retirement appeals, 1 medical retirement litigation matter, and 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation litigation matter. Hunton also accepted 3 discharge upgrade matters, one with partner Capital One.

Hunton further interviewed 15 veterans at 2 virtual clinics, one with partner Capital One and the other with partner BP. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade and TSGLI cases.

Yaniel Abreu	J. A. Glaccum	Stefan E. Lyman	Jennifer Scherschel
Gil O. Acevedo	Madison K. Godsey	Patrick C. Macher	Tom K. Schulte
Benjamin C. Ackerly	Wil Gould IV	Liv Maier	Sumaira Shaikh
Britt E. Anderson	Sevren Gourley	Maeve Malik	Daniel Shanley
Walter J. Andrews	Demitrianna Grekos	Eric Markus	Kevin V. Small
Timothy E. Biller	Brendan P. Harney	Marshall J. Mattera	Nicholas D. Stellakis
Peter Birghoffer	Mark S. Hedberg	Kerry L. McGrath	Megan Taylor
John R. Bobka	Eileen C. Henderson	Nate Menard	David A. Terry
Erin M. Brown	Gregory G. Hesse	Todd S. Mikolop	Quince Thompson
Karma B. Brown	Michael R. Horne	Gray Moeller	James Tsimis
Joseph B. Buonanno	Marshall Horton	Eric Mogel	Paige Van Oosten
Aaron J. Carroll	Jae Lynn Huckaba	Nicholas S. Monico	Evan L. Weisberg
Grant H. Cokeley	Alessandra L.	Madalyn Moore	Jennifer E. Wuebker
Candace Cravey	Hylander	Leah Nommensen	Angelina Yearick
Samuel A. Danon	Jamie Zysk Isani	Anna Page	
Danielle Dobrusin	Nicole R. Johnson	Reuben H. Pearlman	
Andre Earls	Trlica Kennedy	Ryan Pedraza	
Robert J. Edwards	Cecilia Kim	Adriana A. Perez	
Michael F. Fitzpatrick	Jaime B. Kirschke	Robert T.	
Lindsey Foster	Michael B. Kruse	Quackenboss	
Steven C. Friend	Becca E. Lee	W. Michael Reed	
Kevin E. Gaunt	Charlotte Leszinske	Natalie A. Reed	
Andrea D. Gardner	Gabriel M. Lopez	Natalia San Juan	

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Jones Day: 91 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Amy Zywicki, Dean Griffith

Jones Day accepted 2 matters at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Jones Day further accepted 2 discharge upgrade matters and 87 discharge upgrade file review matters, partnering with an attorney at Google on 1 discharge upgrade matter and 3 discharge upgrade file review matters.

John Cheretis

David Feder

Letizia Gianni

Michael Gladman

Dean Griffith

Giorgi Gugenishvili

Sanjiv Kapur

Anthony Kim

Evan McLean

Stephanie Mishaga

Anshu More

Sachin Patel

Gurneet Singh

K&L Gates: 1 matter

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Amy Groff, Craig Leen

K&L Gates accepted 1 matter at the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Stewart Atkins

Stacy Jo

Craig Leen

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

King & Spalding: 36 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Josh Toll, Radha Manthe, Larry Slovensky

King & Spalding accepted 8 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases, 1 discharge upgrade case, 1 case before the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and 26 discharge upgrade file review matters. King & Spalding partnered with Boehringer on 5 of the Combat-Related Special Compensation matters and 19 of the discharge upgrade file review matters.

Sam Anastasiou
Britney Baker
Rachael Bissett
Matt Blaschke
Luke Bosso
Greg Chernack
Christine Choi
Elizabeth Clerke
Nick Cohen
Rachel Corella
Nadia Doherty
Tyler Easley
Joe Eisert
Jake Epstein
Rob Friedman
Caio Gabra
Cory Hohnbaum

Chris Hsu
Robyn Hughes
Ryan Jones
Mary Kennedy
Taeyeong Kim
Amanda Klingler
Jenn Lancaster
Probese Leo
Lauren Lutton
Jennifer Maddrey
Radha Manthe
Mark McLennan
John Morris
Micha Nandaraj Gallo
Kathleen Noebel
Ashleigh Nwanguma
Samuel Pargament

Alvina Pillai
Patrick Price
Rhea Rajkumar
Michael Regan
Matt Rowan
Spencer Sabey
Anneke Shepard
Larry Slovensky
Terry Traynham
Joshua Van Roie
Mark Villapando
NaKayla Williams
Emma Wittmer
Xin Hao Yang

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Kirkland & Ellis: 43 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Jacqueline Haberfeld, Kate Barry, Emily Sullivan, Amy Heaton, Alison King, Julissa Arroyo, Jeseñia Brown

Kirkland accepted 13 discharge upgrade cases, 5 cases at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, 1 appeal at the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, 2 Combat-Related Special Compensation matters, and 15 discharge upgrade file review matters. Kirkland also assisted NVLSP with two research projects.

Kirkland further interviewed 5 veterans at a virtual discharge upgrade clinic. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases

Kaylen Alexis	Gabriela Forsman	Christine Logan	Matt Price
Kendra Armstrong	Deirdre Gallo	Alisha Luga	Karthik Ravishankar
Ethan Borrasso	Chris Gray	Lauren Lutton	Nils Remole
Travis Bragg	Joseph Grosser	William Mabry	Marshall Ringwood
Dominic Brown	Zara Guinard	George Manley	Leo Robles-Rodriguez
Leah Butterfield	Dave Gusella	Michael Marano	Matt Rowan
Lucy Calaway	Laura Harris	Christine Matott	Matthew Schaible
Gina Campanelli	Ian Hatch	Leah McIntire	Jessica Schultz
Serge Charles	Nick Hemmingsen	Katie McKeen	Caroline Shoopman
Emily Chen	Jack Henry	Dana Miller	Hannah Simson
Sarah Conley	Matt Hershkowitz	David Miller	Eva-Luna Slingerland
Patrick Corrigan	Adam Holmes	Walla Mohamedali	Laura Stake
Zeke Couch	Jeffrey Jacobsen	Andrea Murino	Rhiannon Talbert
Paul Cotler	Kelli Johnson	Ethan Nie	James Ticknor
Caitlin Dean	Sanjiv Kapur	Dan Nusubaliyev	Greg Travers
Akshay Deoras	Matthew Kelley	Dan O'Connor	Brianna Tsutsui
Hunter Dentino	Jack Kinnear	Chase Opperman	Joe Walter
Leslie Jean Eaves	Taeyeong Kim	Cheyenne Overall	Abby Ward
Alex Egber	Ed Kirby	Adam Parks	Jon Welfelt
Peter Evangelatos	Tyler Kuhn	Michael Pearson	Lexi Whichard
Elizabeth Farrell	Joshua Lacoste	Austin Pennington	Lexi Wung
Michael Farrell	Eun Sol Lee	Leon Peschel	Camille Youngblood
Mark Filip	Logan Lewis	Craig Primis	

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

KPMG LLP: 9 matters

In 2025, KPMG LLP participated in the LSW program and, together with WilmerHale, interviewed nine veterans at a virtual discharge upgrade clinic. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys and other professionals through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases.

Lauren Castaldi
Damon Dennis
Amy M. Eckstein
Cristian Flores

Traci Irvin
Sheila F. Mahon
Rose H. Rama
Jill Rudnick
Anand Shah

Latham & Watkins: 19 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Spencer Chatellier, Dominique Luongo

A leading LSW partner, Latham accepted 7 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases, 4 medical retirement administrative appeals, 4 discharge upgrade cases, 3 TSGLI cases, and 1 appeal at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Latham also assisted NVLSP in a class action litigation matter.

Lauren Anderson
Stephen Barry
Regan Barney
Greg Bird
Nicholas Blake
Caitlyn Brock
Emily Brown
Nathan Chael
Jordan Cook
Lindsey Doyle
Kavya Dunn
David Frazier
Andy Forman
Todd Gleason
Bob Gilbert
Joshua Graffi
Brittany Grego
Jake Hummer

Paul Hunt
Alfred Hwang
Connor Jobs
Jeremy Johnson
Julianne Kelleher
Craig Kornreich
Wonhyong Lee
Alex McKenzie
Anna Molina
John Niemeyer
Allie O'Hara
Blake Page
Liz Prewitt
Reba Rabenstein
Jack Ring
Jenny Robinson
Daniel Sack

Kamryn Sannicks
Morgen Seim
Cooper Shear
Ellen Smiley
Ben Sterritt
Michael Sullivan
Andrew Taggart
Mike Tinney
Alison Vitello
Katie Worthington
Irina Yevmenenko
Chris Zhao

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Linklaters: 70 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Karen Carbonell, Riya Gupta

Linklaters accepted 2 appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals and 68 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Chino Anukwuem	Michal Folczyk	Olivia Lin
Alexander Auster	Alex Gatlin	Vivian Meng
Bhavishya Barbhaya	Vaishali Gaur	Moises Mizrachi
Ben Bauer	Sean Grishpan	Stephanie Odigie
Josh Berliner	Radhika Gupta	Zita Petrahai
Matthew Bopp	Ray Hou	Gabrielle Quintana
Patrick Canavan	Harrie Im	Christian Riess
Deling Chen	Erika Jensen	Carlos Villarroel
Hwan Choi	Yiran Jiang	Christian Weiss
Jeronimo de Sousa	Alexandra Johnson	Lauren Wells
Krystal Dillon	Mason Kim	Ari Yannakogeorgos
Justin Faulhaber	Rachel Ling	Nina Zegarra-Schmidt

Mayer Brown: 25 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Jenn Cheung

Mayer Brown accepted 25 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Stephanie Amador	Mark Dempsey	Nadine Nasnas
Theresa Arnold	Timothy Dondanville	Nirin Natarajan
Kim Ayudant	Lauren Everett	Tyler Nellis
Esha Bajaj	Kaushik Goswami	Maria Papadopoulou
Carli Berasi	Patrick Gucwa	Inyoung Park
Benedetto Borgesano	Katherine Hsu	Kathleen Parker
Todd Bundrant	James Kendall	Jon Schlotterback
Marissa Cascio	Jefferson Lai	Girindra Selleck
Megan Cicotte	Iris Li	Madeleine Skeid
Allison David	Wan-Ni Lin	Grant Uhler
		Yevgeniy Yalon

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

McCarter & English: 6 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Michelle Pallak

McCarter & English accepted 6 discharge upgrade matters.

George Blazeski

John Camp

Allyson Emley

Mike Gnibus

Desiree Grace

Gregory Hall

Oliver Han

John Isacson

John McKelway

Briana Proudfoot

Briana Proudfoot

Anne Roebel

David Silvia

Stephanie Reed Traband

McDermott Will & Schulte: 2 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Elizabeth Lewis, Rosie Washington-Chambers, Jayme Cassidy

McDermott Will & Emery accepted 1 discharge upgrade matter and 1 appeal before the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Greer Griffith

Marshall Jackson Jr.

Jordan Wade

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

McGuireWoods: 41 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Angie Zimmern, Garen Marshall, Carol Wyatt

McGuireWoods accepted 3 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases and 1 discharge upgrade case.

McGuireWoods also conducted a legislative research project.

McGuireWoods, with their partners Wells Fargo and Mr. Cooper Group, conducted two separate two-day virtual clinics for 36 injured Special Operations servicemembers.

Brittney Angelich	Holly DeShields	Janet Kim	Lowrie Reniger
Kristin Athens	Kasey Erb	Bailey Maher	Stuart Rasley
Alicia Baiardo	Joseph Gaston	Nico Mak-Wasek	Ryan Sanders
Kara Bennett	Matt Gerber	Garen Marshall	Matt Stevens
Alex Boros	Jonathan Harmon	Paul McNamara	Evan Tucker
Roberto Candelas	Salwa Kamal	Todd Mullins	Jason Vespoli
Paul Chappell	Kristen Kirby	Micaylee Noreen	James Walls
Benjamin Dauber	Hal Kitchin	Parks Noyes	Jenny Yi

Microsoft: 41 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Beth Henderson, Heidi Dowling

Microsoft accepted 40 discharge upgrade file review matters and 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation case.

Phil Armstrong	Bill Hayden	Jonell Reyes
Rob Batey	Maggie Hodges	Meghan Romano
Brittany Benavidez	Geoffrey Hoggard	Mary Jo Schrade
Pete Berger	Melinda Hoggard	Becky Summers
David Brown	Nancy King	Natilie Thomas
AJ Calvelo	Tania Koles	Hung To
Alicia Cullen	Rebecca Maynard	Stephen Urena
Sean Davis	Teo Morca	Ryan Wagner
Birgitte Gingold	Sarah O'Hare O'Neal	Sam Winninghoff
Lauyren Haight	Danny Oh	Andrea Yepez
Ursula Hardy	Ranti Okunoren	Bianca Zhang
Stacy Harris	Tom Orrison	

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Milbank: 4 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Tony Cassino

Milbank accepted 1 discharge upgrade matter, 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation case, and 2 discharge upgrade file reviews.

Andrew Brooks
Max Edwards

John Green
David Naftulin
Melis Ulusel

Miller & Chevalier: 2 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Kitty Wach

Miller & Chevalier accepted 2 appeals before the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Scott Flesch
Elizabeth Jonas
Alex Sarria

Mondelez: 13 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Corina Oprea

A new LSW partner in 2025, Mondelez accepted 5 discharge upgrade file review matters. Mondelez also partnered with Crowell & Moring to interview 8 veterans at a virtual discharge upgrade clinic. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases.

Jo-Anne David
Leanne Dawes
Pamela Herrera
Maria Kalousi Tatum
Sarah Langstedt
Corina Oprea

Maria Otey
Christine Palumbo
Emily Prentice
Erin Shencopp
Patrick Shewell
Doug Ujdur

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Morgan, Lewis & Bockius: 15 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Rachel Strong, Alison Sclater, Jay Lee, Andrea Fitanides, Namita Mani

Morgan Lewis accepted 8 appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation matter, 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation litigation matter, and 5 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Carson Bailer	Alexander Harrison	Matt McDonough	Stephanie Roberts
Claire Bispo	Erik Hawes	Sean McMahan	Riley Sanchez
Tim Burke	Tawni Henderson	Greg Mottla	Sam Shaulson
Will Cravens	Owen Hosseinzadeh	Mark Parise	Tamara Shepard
Brad Fagg	Ahren Hsu-Hoffman	Chris Parlo	Mike Sikora
Brandon Figg	Maya Jackson	Alison Patitucci	Alex Stein
John Gaustad	Katerina Hora Jacobson	Sophia Pereira	Ed Ulloa
Kandis Gibson	Alex Johnson	Jacob Peterson	Jonathan York
Annie Gieseke	Mike Jones	Brooke Quesinberry	Todd Zerega
Elisabeth Grippando	Brian Loughnane	Susan Resley	

National Football League: 10 matters

The NFL, through its in-house legal department, partnered with Paul, Weiss to conduct 10 virtual discharge upgrade clinic interviews. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases.

Catherine Akenhead	Sophia Carrano	Lisa Friel
David Bayer	Dolores DiBella	Bonnie Jarrett
Michael Buchwald	Marie Francois	Alexandra Smoczkiwicz

NBCUniversal: 2 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Dan Cooper, Cherrey Wales

NBCUniversal accepted 2 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Riadh Quadir

Zack Schenkkan

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Nelson Mullins: 37 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Norah Rogers, Emily Guerrero

A new LSW partner in 2025, Nelson Mullins accepted 4 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases, 4 discharge upgrade matters, 1 appeal at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and 28 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Efraim Adler	Joshua Guyan	Jack Pringle
Harsh Arora	Sydney Hamer	Brennan Ryan
Steven Augustino	Ashley Hawkins	Jake Schoeck
Daniel Brown	John Heitmann	Megan Schroder
Jordan Brunson	Joseph Howard	Will Smoak
Shannon Coy	Isabelle Janssen	David Sturtz
Eva Diaz	Ashton Jenne	Donna Sturtz
Bailey Dukes	Kaylen Loflin	Amanda Thompson
Olivia Fergerstrom	Marielle Montecillo	Elaine Yap
Justin Ford	Bryant Neal	Natalie White
	Michael Nemcik	Hannah Zuckerman

Nixon Peabody: 10 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Sharmaine Heng, Suzanne Harrington-Steppen, Conor McNamara, Matt Richards

Nixon Peabody accepted 6 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases and 4 appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Aaron Brian	Mark D. Lytle
Patrick Doyle	Robert J. McManigal
Alex Day	Andrew Newcombe
Gregory N. Doran	Zachary C. Osinski
Keith Edeus	Amanda Przybycien
Matthew Forzano	Michael J. Summerhill
Kelly Glynn	Michael Testa
Mark Knights	Alexa Torrens
Bryan Lewis	

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

O'Melveny: 136 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: David Lash, Taylor Simeone, Chris Owens

O'Melveny accepted 3 appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and 133 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Alli Adams	Jason Fountain	Connie Lee	Ashley Pavel
Jason An	Brittany Fowler	Khanh Leon	John Peshtaz
Joanne Bae	Kelsey Fraser	James Li	Moshe Peters
Brett Bautista	Zach Frieden	Dawn Lim	Bradden Pippin
Maria Benites Gutierrez	Sam Galvan	Kevin Liu	Ross Pollack
Hope Blain	Lana Gandler	Cheryl Looper	Victoria Randall
Alyx Bogus	Britny Goel	Elizabeth Lopez	Denise Raytis
Caitlin Boucher	Kristen Godfrey	Vy Malette	Kristina Reyes
William Buffaloe	Siddharth Goswami	Anne Marchitello	Marni Robinow
Courtney Byrd	Rob Graffum	Bill Martin	Zachary Rosenberg
Eamonn Campbell	Ashley Gust	Bryce May	Max Rosenthal
Daniel Cantor	Tae Ha	Noah Mengisteab	Ahmed Sangbana
Antoinette Catha	Clint Harris Hasaj	James Midkiff	Hassen Sayeed
Vaishalee Chaudhary	Carl Erik Heiberg	Sean Milde	Ryan Sears
Min Choi	Yara Hejazi	Pamela Miller	Nolan Shaw
Ryan Chow	Caitlin Hogan	Shirah Minkoff	Molly Shuminer
Jon Clark	Samantha Indelicato	Nicole Molner	Skyanne Simonson
Mary Cobb	Jack Jacobsen	Kristina Mooradian	Becky Small
Anna Cosby	Vino Jayaraman	Gregory Morris	Laura Smith
Gregory Comeau	Lauren Kaplan	Xander Nabavi-Noori	Ahree Song
Bill Craco	Rosie Kaur	Nuviet Nguyen Nazarian	
Kurt Cronican	Paige Kellerman	Maggie Niu	Molly Shuminer
Shelby Cummings	Declan Kelly	Gabriel Olivera	Skyanne Simonson
Jack Derewicz	Angela Kim	Andrea Orr	Becky Small
Jesse DiLaura	David Kirman	Chris Owens	Laura Smith
Timothy Durst	Andrew Kus	Sofia Panarella	Ahree Song
Alexis Fasig	Brock Laney	Maiah Parks	Maya Spitzer
Austin Fauni	Jessa Lauer	Raj Paul	Colin Stanton
Kevin Feder			

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O'Melveny: (Continued)

Anne Steinberg	Phillip Thomas	Brennan Wong
Dian Stevens	Dan Tola	Sharon Yang
Coke Morgan Stewart	Luis Torres-Cervantes	Mohammad Yassin
Maria Stewart	Kathryn Turner	Neriah Yue
Kate Stutz	Lauren Wagner	Erol H. Yundem
Bill Sushon	Brooke Wilner	Elena Zarabozo
William Tamposi	Joanne Wisner	Renia Zervos
		Shaq Zhao

OpenText: 1 matter

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Brian Pinnell

OpenText accepted 1 discharge upgrade matter with partner Orrick.

Brian Pinnell

Optum: 12 matters

Optum partnered with Faegre Drinker to interview 10 veterans at a virtual discharge upgrade clinic. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases. Optum partnered with Faegre Drinker for full representation on 2 discharge upgrade cases.

Kineshia Adamson	Amanda Craig	Jennifer Lewis-David	Amanda Pittman
John Aissis	Haley Fisher	Jeannie Loehrer	Tonya Russell
Aimee Blatz	Eric Greenberg	Taneshia McFadden	Sarah Sullivan
Rachael Bowens	Tracy Hofmann	Shamila Merchan	Kristina Stolzenberg
Michael Brody	Brytne Kitchin	Kristen Morrill	Clinton Stroeing
Angela Chadwick	Jennifer Lewis-David	Shawn Neddo	Doris Varlese
Angela Cox	Jeannie Loehrer	Matt Padelli	Lynne Willett
			Amy Zell

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Oracle: 10 matters

Oracle partnered with Orrick to interview 10 veterans at a virtual discharge upgrade clinic. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases.

Ayat Alihassan
Melissa Arcaro Burns
Thomas Cloherty
Richard Fisher

Jennifer Nusmaum
Jenna Seeley
Mark Wayne

Orrick: 43 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Rene Kathawala

Orrick accepted 10 appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, 6 discharge upgrade matters (1 with partner OpenText), and 14 discharge upgrade file review matters. Orrick also drafted two amicus briefs and assisted NVLSP with a project.

Orrick partnered with Oracle to interview 10 veterans at a virtual discharge upgrade clinic. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases.

Joseph Adamson	John Eliason	Millay Kogan	Vann Pearce
Allison Bradham	Hagit Elul	Amanda Lawrence	Josh Pond
Anna Booth	Jason Flaherty	Daniel Lee	Radhika Raman
Mel Bostwick	Bill Foley	Michelle Lee	Seth Reagan
Emmanuel Burrell	Gary Frischling	Keith Levinsky	Ramon Ryan
Alyssa Caridis	Lise Fuerrier	Will Lorenzen	Leah Sanzari
Ciarra Carr	Sheryl Garko	Katie Mantoan	Anne Savin
James Chou	Elizabeth Garcia	Erica Martin	Daryl Shetterly
Olivia Clements	Preetha Gist	David McGill	Rochelle Swartz
Catherine Conners	John Grant	Gavin McGimpsey	Robert Taylor
Andy Cook	Saurabh Gupta	Beth McGinn	Michael Vance
Wendy Butler Curtis	Melanie Hallums	Harry Murphy	Amy Walsh
Tyler Davis	Kara Iskenderian	Alexis Murray	Jay Williams
Maya Dudley	Daniel Justice	Lori Naser	Romina Montellano Yoerg
Patricia Eichar	Sarah Coffey Koch	Kathleen Orr	

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Paul Hastings: 41 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Jerri Shick, Caitlin Annatoyn

Paul Hastings accepted 10 Combat-Related Special Compensation matters, 2 discharge upgrade cases, 1 litigation matter, and 26 discharge upgrade file review matters, partnering with JP Morgan on 16. Paul Hastings also drafted two amicus briefs.

Alia Basar	Jeremy McNeil
Nick Bassett	Vanessa Omoroghomwan
Meredith Boylan	Ryan Poitras
Jon Canfield	Candace Polster
Josh Christensen	Phil Raucci
Rich Davis	Sam Richardson
Jeremy Evans	Jess Shannon
Keith Feigenbaum	Chris Sickles
Kari Hall	Luyi Song
Katie Henneke	Michael Spafford
Lily Hunter	Andrew Sterritt
Richala Jackson	Shannon Sylvester
Thomas Jordan	David Tennant
Lucas Kressel	Igor Timofeyev
Jeffrey Li	Michael Wolfe
Michael Marusak	Joshua Yin
Ker Medero	Charles Ziscovici
Cheron Mims	

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Paul, Weiss: 35 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Emily Donohoe, Jeremy Benjamin, Kennady Wade

Paul, Weiss accepted 8 discharge upgrade matters, 2 appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and 14 discharge upgrade file review matters. Paul, Weiss further drafted an amicus brief.

Paul, Weiss also hosted a virtual discharge upgrade clinic with the NFL, serving 10 veterans. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases.

Harry Adaza	Fallon Grayson	Rebecca Rohtstei
Kevin Addor	Thomas Grunfeld	Spencer Rosen
Salem Aboghodieh	Eddie Halwani	Elana Rosenfield
Claudia Alaimo	Serena Highley	Rosanna Rossi
Sutton Ansley	Maria Castro James	Kyle Rowland
Ryan Arredondo	Stephani Johnson	Sarah Shields
Lourdes Bejarano	Matthew Kaminer	Leila Shirian
Sarita Benesch	Christodoulos Kaoutzanis	Joanne Sims
Reginald Bradnock	Jay Kaplan	Alison Stone
Mandy Branch	Hannah Kark	Elon Swartz
Hannah Burdette	Chafik Leblalta	Aidan Synnott
Ming Yan Cheng	Zhen Lin	Vincent Todarello
Chioma Chikwelugo	Anna Lucardi	Michele Varano
Sonia Christie	Alan Luo	Amanda Valerio Esene
Clifford Chuang	John Magruder	Hattie Van Metre
David Cohen	Saqib Mahmood	Tares Vazquez
Katie Danaher	Sam Margolis	Jeremy Veit
Lisa Danzig	Molly Martinez	Shaina Vinayek
Jennifer Darmody	Gabe McClary	Jacob Wecht
Aya Dvir	Cole McConnachie	Tom Weiss
Alex Emken	Aaron Miller	Christopher Wershoven
Lewis Fainer	Kayo Naruse	Olivia Wiener
Cyndi Flemming	Chris Pepe	Chris Wilson
Eric Fruchter	Lauren Perez	Alex Woelffer
Stephanie Garcia	Jake Petterchak	Zhihui Ye
Salvatore Gerbino	Marc Price Wolf	Alexander Yeagley
		Ryan Zehner

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Ashurst Perkins Coie: 158 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Julie LaEace, Sara Malan, Kara Wood

Ashurst Perkins Coie accepted 6 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases and 1 discharge upgrade case. Ashurst Perkins Coie is a leading partner for discharge upgrade file reviews, accepting 151 file review matters in 2025.

Tina Acevedo	Susan Estes	Gloria Kim
Jamiesyn Aliano	Alec Farr	Noah Kim
Pam Anderson	Ariel Fischhoff	Paul Kim
Anna Avendaño	Mikael Floyd	Samuel Klein
Justin Bae	Aimee Ford	Sean Knowles
Atanas Baitchev	Jason Francis	Charlotte Kress
Malori Basye	Don Friedman	Zack Kreisler
Robert Berry	Annie Fuoto	Tara Kurtis
Zane Bi	Amir Gamliel	Christopher Leach
Jedidiah Blake	Taline Gettas	Sarah Leshner
Suzanne Boehm	Sara Goldfarb	Ben Lester
Alix Bromer	Laura Gritz	Henry Little
Ben Brokesh	Francys Guevara	Jessica Lockhart
Cayro Bustos	Meredith Halama	Bri Loughlin
Delaney Butler	Dean Harvey	Rocky Maas
Sam Carl	Issa Hawatmeh	Olivia Maffei
Jon Carter	Brittany Hinson	Christopher Marando
Zachary Chalett	Stephen Hogan-Mitchell	Adam Martin
Maureen Chang	Hayden Householder	Bill McCabe
Alea Chatman	Dylan Houle	Maggie McCallister
Andy Chen	Sarah Hugues	Karen McGaffey
Barak Cohen	Rachel Humphrey	Rachel Merritt
Ben Dale	Brandon Hunt	Caroline Mew
Michael Dawes	Maisie Ide	Lucy Miller
Evan Day	Ali Jenkins	Megan Morrissey
John Delaney	Bryan Johnson	Tina Moss
Shaun Devereaux	LeAnn Johnson Koch	Ryan Mrazik
John Dillow	Guy Joseph	Serena Nakano
Ted Dowd	Dmitry Kagan	Michael Nguyen
Andrew Dufresne	Jessica Kaiser	Dylan Niederland
Gary Eisenberg	Wonji Kerper	Katie O'Sullivan
Kelly Eshima	Janis Kestenbaum	

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Ashurst Perkins Coie: 158 matters (Continued)

Stephanie Vancil de Oliveira	Dorianne Salmon	Mary Grace Thurmon
Cory Owan	Ashlee Sherman	Jonathan Tietz
Andrew Pak	Karishma Shah	Tommy Tobin
Alexander Pascualy	Alexis Shankman	Maria Trubetskaya
Adrienne Paterson	Anni Siitonen	Stephanie Turcios
Konstantin Petrov	Karan Singh	Rae Utterback
Sean Phelan	Caitlin Stern	Greg Vogel
Madison Plummer	Katlyn Stockslager	Michael Wadden
Nathan Reader	Zachary Stump	Oviett Worthington Wargula
Nikhila Raj	Jordan Surratt	Christopher Wassman
Shelby Respicio	Janice Ta	D. Sean West
Eli Roden	Brandon Thompson	Nancy Williams
Torryn Rodgers	Kaneem Thornton	Maeve Wilson

Pillsbury: 2 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Blaine Green, Benjamin Dean

A new LSW partner in 2025, Pillsbury accepted 2 discharge upgrade matters.

Steve Brenner	William Fork	Brendan Hennessey
Shelby Dyl	Arielle Heffez	Lexie Pereira

Proskauer: 5 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Michelle Moriarty, Bill Silverman, Kyara Molina

A new LSW partner in 2025, Proskauer accepted 4 discharge upgrade matters and 1 appeal at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. 20 Proskauer attorneys accepted LSW matters in 2025.

Thank You for Your Legal Representation

Reed Smith: 2 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Doug Rawles, Karen Hoy, Alex Mahfood

Reed Smith accepted 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation matter and 1 medical retirement administrative appeal.

David DeJesus

Christopher Maldonado

Christopher Pulido

Robinson+Cole: 9 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Bill Bradley

A new LSW partner in 2025, Robinson+Cole accepted 2 appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals and 7 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Bill Bradley

Kyle Hepner

Daniel Lass

Jordyn Nguyen

Katherine Skonberg

Ropes & Gray: 3 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Roz Nasdor, Byrne Harrison, Mei Sei Fong, Evelin Morales

Ropes & Gray accepted 3 appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Brent Bates

Lucas Brown

Coles Cotter

Jim Dowden

Bryan Hunkele

Sanaa Jain

Sarah Kaplan

Alexandra Kaye

Quintin Levin

Tiffany Mallakis

Patrick O'Brien

Meghan Gilligan Palermo

Andrew Todres

Aryel Tucker

Carolina Young

Frances Zhang

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RTX: 26 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Justin Hendrix, Wendie Wigginton

RTX accepted 1 discharge upgrade case and 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation case, both with partner DLA Piper. RTX also accepted 24 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Donna Dorbuck

Sean O'Brien

Saul Ewing: 1 matter

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Mary Beth Schluckebier McGovern

A new LSW partner in 2025, Saul Ewing accepted 1 discharge upgrade matter.

Adam Fayne

Jonathan Havens

Donna Huntermark Lewis

Kayla Kienzle

Sheppard Mullin: 3 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Daniel Brown, Abby Carrigan, Martha Ramos

Sheppard Mullin volunteers accepted 3 appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Shaunna Bailey

T.J. Benedict

Rob Friedman

Victoria Hubona

Anne Perry

Shannon Petersen

Jackie Proctor

Skylar Stoudt

Michael Sutton

Lauren Watson

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Sidley Austin: 166 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Emily Wexler

A leading LSW partner for all case types, Sidley accepted 15 discharge upgrade cases, partnering with US Bank on 1 case. Sidley further accepted 22 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases, 14 appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, 1 Integrated Disability Evaluation System matter, 2 litigation cases, and 101 discharge upgrade file review matters. Sidley also assisted NVLSP by with a research project.

Sidley further interviewed 11 veterans at a virtual discharge upgrade clinic with partner JP Morgan Chase. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases.

Dara Adeoye	Lindsay Fisher-McFarland	Stephen Laudone
Margaret Allen	Tacy Flint	Suzanna Lewis
Aaron Applebaum	Maggie Gianvecchio	Cindy Lovering
Raymond Atkins	Chris Gleason	Courtney Luster
Stephen Ballas	Scott Gregus	Carrie Mahan
Andrew Baptist	Nick Greenberg	Mimi Mallory
Daniel Barcia	Claire Grogan	Elizabeth Marino
Kyle Barnett	Sarah Gromet	Chloe Marks
Jonathan Blackburn	Hannah Gruen	Rodolfo Martinez-Don
James Blanchard	Lauren Gumerove	Eric Mattson
Corey Bopp	Alexander Hakes	Greg Matisoff
Nathan Burkes	Mike Hatcher	Lakeisha Mays
Liz Buescher	Dylan Horwitz	Brad McGee
Alexander Ccsordas	Samantha Hughes	Steve McInerney
Natalie Crawford	Jason Hyatt	Joe Michaels
John Cupit	Zach Johnston	Rahil Nag
Grace Dau	Simone Jones	Adam Nelson
Nick DeAngelis	Parker Johnson	Kayla Nguyen
Peter DeGolia	Jennifer Kalvelage	Tung Nguyen
Henry Dickinson	Dina Kang	Ben Nitschelm
Ada Dovell	Erin Kauffman	Joseph Oschri
Anne Driscoll	Jocelyne Kelly	Robert Pertierra
Andy Dykstra	Louisa Kiu	Andreas Rauch
Jack Eggman	Natalie Knowles	Bianca Ramirez
Christopher Eiswerth	Stephen Komorek	Rudy Ramirez
Ogechi Ezeofor	Sitota Langford	Jonathan Renert
Caterina Faya	Maddie Larock	Eva Romero-Sutherland

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Sidley Austin: 166 matters (Continued)

Simon Saddleton	Brent Steele	Chris Van Slyke
Camille Sanches	Julia Steiner	Hannah Vance
Charles Santoro	Dan Sullivan	Frank Volpe
Austin Schlatter	Katherine Surma	Alexander Waddell
Garrett Sciortino	Cri Swift	Yifei Wang
Austin Severns	Alex Theodosakis	Dunn Westhoff
Ankur Shingal	Devin Thompson	Emily Wexler
Charles Sommers	Vishnu Tirumala	Reina Won
Atzin Villareal Sosa	Joanna Travalini	Tyler Wood
Brent Steele	Cameron Turkzadeh	Rachel Zingg

Simpson Thacher: 3 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Harlene Katzman, Susan Cordaro

Simpson Thacher accepted 3 discharge upgrade matters.

Lynn K. Neuner	Raymond Jensen	Jim Perry
W. Andrew Lanius	Won Ki Lee	Ekok Soubir
Jesse Feng	Isabel Catanzaro McGrath	Marc van Heerden
		Kyle Zollinger

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Skadden: 31 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Anna Frances Coleman, Don Salzman, Eddie Houlihan, Stephanie Turner, Brenna DeVaney, Erika Szymanski, Jennifer Minervini

Volunteer attorneys from Skadden accepted 4 discharge upgrade cases, 23 discharge upgrade file review matters, 1 TSGLI case, and 1 litigation matter. Skadden also assisted NVLSP with two research projects.

Max Abish	Kundan Kakaria (former)	Mary Nwachukwu
Michael Albrecht vom Kolke	Robert Kiernan	Lydia O'Connell
Brian Babb	Barbra Kim	David Passarelli
Nadiya Beckwith-Stanley	Jay Kim	Nick Peiffer
Billy Bradley	Sammuel Kim (former)	Jacob Rahavi
Courtney Butterworth	Harry Koulos (former)	Lisa Marie Rechden
Adriana Campos-Korn (former)	Matt Krasner (former)	Anisa Ricci (former)
Van Carver	Aaron Lahijani (former)	Maria Schultes (former)
Katie Clarke	Andrew Lawrence	Ryan Shaw (former)
Blake Clawson (former)	Grant Leman	Zack Shulman
Jackie Dakin	Zachary Levine	Scott Silverboard
Mat Dietzel	Raymond Liang (former)	Patrick Stewart
Mitch Ettinger	Jennifer Madden	Lyall Stuart
Paige Fishman	Nikko Martins	Linnea Taddeo
Trevor Floyd	Christopher Mawyer	Vira Tarnavska
Bernardo Fonseca	Danny McCooey (former)	Ariana Taylor
Erica Freeman	Harrison Meads	Eric Ting (former)
Paige Gillard (former)	Mira Metry	Andrew Townsend
Edward L. Gonzales	Joshua Metzger	Athena Tsianos
Vanessa Maya Gutierrez	Aaron Milevsky (former)	Or-el Vaknin
Brian Ibarguen (former)	Kristine Morr	Scott Vance
Yuxi Han	Andrew Muscato	Stefane Victor
Daleel Jaber	Melissa Muse	Jordan Wachsman
Andrew Johnson (former)	Olivia Murray (former)	Daniel Wang (former)
Spurthi Jonnalagadda	Jillian Norton	Robert Warnement
Peter Julian	Grayson Noyes (former)	Nancy Wuamett
		Greg Zaffino (former)
		Michael Zschokke (former)

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Squire Patton Boggs: 37 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Corrine Irish, Aniyah Nelson

Squire Patton Boggs accepted 37 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Spencer Arrowood	Danielle Gagliardi	Jon Lucas
Brandon Arents	Delaney Hoxsie	Majer Ma
Ololade Bello	Kathrin Koterzyna	Alexandra Michalak
Brittney Cho	Lily Landolt	Daniel Stephen
Anna Fraser	Taylor Lonas	

Steptoe: 16 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Paul Lee, Carolyn Perez

Steptoe accepted 7 cases at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, 2 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases, and 7 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Kelly Anderson	Tarrian Ellis	Sarah Norise
Iris Bennett	Tyler Evans	Jackie Pariseau
Shaun Boedicker	John Kavanagh	Tim Strafford
Joe Bower	Steve Levin	Phil West
Caitlin Conroy	Layla McKan	Onika Williams
Jason D'Antonio	Anna Menzel	Jason Wright
Kelly Eberspecher	Jacob Michalakes	Chris Zentz

Sullivan & Cromwell: 2 matters

Sullivan & Cromwell accepted 1 case at the Board of Veterans' Appeals and 1 medical retirement administrative appeal.

Gijs de Bra	Ben Greene	Phoebe Sam
Declan Gemmill	Eli Lee	Will Weinberg

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Taft: 86 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Rachel Jennings, Michelle Alba-Sanchez

Taft accepted 86 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Matthew Abes	Tracy Segal Foust	Kathryn Meloni
Susan Appel	Celeste Friel	Adam Mills
Josh Bass	Emily Garlock	Eric Murphy
Henry Byrne	Libby Gorske	Kyle Nelson
Alex Chura	Aisha Hall	Jovana Paic
Alina Combs	Jack Hawkins	Samuel Parks
Michael De Matteis	Ashley Hummel	Devina Patel
Lizzy Dobbins	Heather Jackson	Amanda Pipik-Leip
Jonathon Dotson	Lili Jimenez	Olivia Rangaswami
Maddie Duchesneau	Madie Jurasek	Lilly Richter
Tad Elliott	Zach LeCompte	Lilly Rigby
Michael Emmer	Brendan LeMay	Dorothy Swagler
	Briana Long	

Thomson Reuters: 12 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Peggy Barber, Beth Crawford, Katie Thompson, Sarah Muhlstock

A new LSW partner in 2025, Thomson Reuters accepted 12 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Julie Antalffy	Heather McArn	Jill Tekampe
Peggy Barber	Rebecca Matzek	Katie Thompson
Adam Blake	Sarah Muhlstock	Deborah Verdile
Kelly Carlisle	Brandan Oliver	Angela Watts
Matt Eilers	Mary Ordonez	Jamie Weber
Steve Foley	Andrew Ritzer	David Wiles
Ed Gentilcore	Anny Shechtman	Ann Williams
Jonathan Greenberg	Lori Smith	Cade Woolston
Ryan Hamm	Cassandra Solis	
Lauren Hornsby	Nicky Sonntag	

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T-Mobile: 12 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Michelle Lama

T-Mobile accepted 2 Combat-Related Special Compensation matters with partner DLA Piper. T-Mobile also accepted 10 discharge upgrade file review matters with partner with Davis Wright Tremaine.

Kevin Creed	Katie Jeter-Boldt	
Maria Dellett	Michelle Lama	Aaron Newell
Thomas Eybl	Patrick McGrath	Amanda Rosen
Michael Jagiello	Daniel Mow	Fa Turnder

Troutman Pepper Locke: 30 matters

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Sara Richman, Sarah Bures, Gaby Mendoza,
Nick Ramos, Daniela Lerner**

Troutman Pepper Locke accepted 12 Combat-Related Special compensation cases, 2 TSGLI cases, and 1 appeal at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Troutman Pepper further accepted 5 discharge upgrade matters, partnering with RBC Capital Markets on 1 matter.

Troutman Pepper Locke also partnered with RBC Capital Markets to interview 10 veterans at a virtual discharge upgrade clinic. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade cases

Zie Alere	Thomas Dockery	Brooke Lindsey	Julia Oles
Andrew Braunstein	Nick Erickson	Luke LoFrumento	Ernesto Palomo
Shawn Brenhouse	Chris Fontenelli	Elizabeth Loizides	Nicholas Ramos
Chris Carlson	Floy Gaidarski	Christine MacGregor	Nick Ramos
Greg Casamento	Gabrielle Gelozin	David Madrazo	Jessica Ring
Derek Centola	Max Gessman	Dean Mattschull	Kyara Rivera Rivera
Dom Cervoni	Nik Hansen	Joe Mayotte	Jack Robinson
Olivia Nicole Chamberlain	Sophia Harmelin	Jessica McClellan	David Rutan
Katie Condon	Leila Harrison	Anthony Melon	Jeremy Sairsingh
Michael Conley	Sophia Elizabeth Hartman	Keith Menscher	Isabella Scarselli
Lindsey Crawford	Jim Horne	Vienna Messina	Hallie Schwartzman
Sophia D'Agostino	Kristin Jones	Scott Montgomery	James Severs
Kyle Deak	Melanie Kersey	Alex Nani	Timothy Shyu
	Marin Larkin	Hoa Nguyen	Brad Weber

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U.S. Bank: 1 matter

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Alyson Cauchy, Tara Adams, Alison Atkins

U.S. Bank accepted 1 discharge upgrade matter with partner Sidley.

Alison Atkins

Verizon: 5 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Celeste Como, Allison Derco, Lindsay Sherwin, Peter Vanderloo, Mary Penn

Verizon accepted 5 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Oded Friedmann

Emily Lipka

De O'Roark

Tica Taylor

Vinson & Elkins: 9 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Parker Cragg

Vinson & Elkins accepted 3 discharge upgrade matters, 5 discharge upgrade file review matters, and 1 medical retirement administrative appeal.

Tom Aird

Elisavet Ayscough

Melody Brennan

Julia Burns

Nicole Castle

Carson Copeland

Hope Dawson

Ari Erfani

Elizabeth Flatley

Madelyn Foster

Cate Gillham

Kara Kuritz

Grace Ann Pulliam

Teresa Robach

Melissa Spohn

Adam Thomas

Grant Tolley

Kiran Vakamudi

Cam Viney

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Weil: 1 matter

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Miriam Buhl, Yoonmee Cho

A new LSW partner in 2025, Weil accepted 1 discharge upgrade matter.

Katie Buggs
Angela Estrada

John Kuebler
Tom Mastoras

White & Case: 18 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Patrick Rickerfor, Alex Dilley, Michelle O'Brien, Karla Vergara

A leading partner at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, White & Case accepted 14 cases at the Board of Veterans' Appeals and 4 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Alec Albright
Mashel Alkhesaifi
Chisom Amanchukwu
Katie Birnhak
Matt Brown
Claire DeLelle
Alex Dilley
Matt Drossos
Dana Foster

Sean Kidd
John Lawrence
Jules Lee
Tara Lee
Allan Lemos
Lauren Lundy
Otto Nunez-Montelongo
Daniel O'Rourke
Henrik Patel
Rucha Phadtare

Rucha Phadtare
Kelly Phil
Aaron Potter
Todd Rouse
Phil Russell
Clint Simkins
Edward So
Gordon Wille
Andrew Zatz

Williams & Connolly: 6 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contact: Beth Wilson, Liam Montgomery

Williams & Connolly accepted 4 discharge upgrade matters and 1 appeal the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Williams & Connolly volunteers also drafted an amicus brief.

Liza Arias
Chloe Houdre
Zach Fuchs
Kyle Greene
Nikolai Morse

McKayla Robinson
Amy Saharia
Danielle Sochaczewski
Nick Vincent
Daniel Whiteley

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WilmerHale: 45 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Erin Marie Meyer, Dorian Meyer Needham, Leigh Hillebrand

WilmerHale is a leading LSW partner for all case types. WilmerHale accepted 8 discharge upgrade cases, 16 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases, 1 TSGLI case, 2 appeals at the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and 1 case at the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Additionally, WilmerHale interviewed 17 veterans at 2 virtual clinics, partnering with KMPG on 1 clinic with 10 veterans. Veterans from across the country met with pro bono attorneys through virtual meeting platforms to discuss their discharge upgrade and IDES cases.

Abi King	Bobby Hampton	Elizabeth D'Aunno
Adam Aliano	Brendan McGuire	Elizabeth Mitchell
Adam Camiel	Brent Gurney	Elizabeth Trujillo
Akshat Shekhar	Brittany Warren	Elliot Shackelford
Alex Young	Bruce Newman	Emily Gomez
Alexandria Reid	Bryan Baniaga	Erik Swabb
Allie Bachman	Caitlin McGough	Erin Granillo-Walker
Amanda Clarke	Charlie Cox	Erin Meyer
Amy Doberman	Chris Noyes	Franca Harris-Gutierrez
Amy Mahan	Christie Huchro	Gary Howell-Walton
Amy Wigmore	Christopher Noyes	Gennifer Birkenfeld-Malpass
Andre Owens	Collin Phillips	Grant Rowan
Andrew Davies	Courtney Murray	Gwen Ljung-Baruth
Andrew Jumper	Daniel Clark	Hannah Santasawatkul
Andrew Shipley	Daniel Martin	Hayley Hopkins
Andrew Straky	Daniel Schubert	Heather Hedges
Andrew Walsh	Daniel Zimmerman	Howard Shapiro
Andy Reynolds	Danielle Morris	Isaiah Chatman
Anes Sung	Danny Perry	Jaclyn Moyer
Anna Patej	David Waites	Jaclyn Schofield
Annie Himes	Davina Pujari	Jake Brownell
Arpi Youssoufian	Deanna Youssoufian	Jamie Kim
Ashley Bashur	Del Smith	Jane Cha
Ashley Hartman	Dennis Wang	Jarrold Ingles
Barry Hurewitz	Dominick Hurley	Jason Chipman
Becca Mooney	Dorian Needham	Jeannette Boot
Ben Morris	Doug Gates	Jennifer Graber
Bill McLucas	Elese Hanson	Jennifer Thompson
Blake Sweat		

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WilmerHale: 45 matters (Continued)

Jenny Cho	Madeline Simpson	Reade Jacob	Ted Hasen
Jeremy Moorehouse	Magda von Albade	Rebecca Scaife	Thanithia Billings
Jeremy Stein	Maria Kanevsky	Reid Whitaker	Tim Cook
Jessica Lutkenhaus	Mary Pheng	Reshma Gogineni	Tolu Ojuola
Jessica Maneval	Masha Goncharova	Richard O'Neill	Tom Oates
Jessica Shelnutt	Matt Jones	Richie Bernache	Tranae Felicien
John Butts	Matthew Beville	Robert Stiller	Will Dario
John Hardisky	Meredith Brenton	Ryan Daily	Zachary Mollendor
Joseph Brenner	Micah Fielden	Ryan Lee	
Josh Mogil	Michael Bongiorno	Sabriyya Pate	
Josh Nathanson	Michael Gilligan	Sam Winter-Barker	
Joshua Benson-Foley	Michael Heyison	Sandy Ra	
Joshua Lerner	Michael Summersgill	Sarah Cabrera	
Joshua Stern	Michaela Wilkes Klein	Sarah Garrett	
Josue Guerra	Mike Cerulli	Sarah Murphy	
Justin Mann	Mike Charbonneau	Schuyler Atkins	
Justin Taleisnik	Natalie Kirchoff	Seth Locke	
Kevin Cheng	Natasha Kang	Seth Miller	
Kevin Prussia	Nicolette Willis	Shanelle Doherty	
Kyle Swan	Noah Levin	Simon Williams	
Kyrie Graziosi	Nora Xu	Sonal Mehta	
Laila Ameri	Omar Khan	Sri Medicherla	
Lauren Lifland	Patrick Nyman	Stephanie Avakian	
Leslie Harrelson	Paul Connell	Stephanie Nicolas	
Linda Zou	Paul Vanderslice	Steven Horn	
Liza Kirchoffer	Peggy Otum	Sundai Iott	
Lori Martin	Perry Lange	Swain Wood	
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Winston Taylor: 168 matters

LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Greg McConnell, Tara Moss, Maria Kutnick, Laurence Legall

Winston Taylor accepted 8 cases at the Board of Veterans' Appeals and 160 discharge upgrade file review matters.

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