



**NVLSP**  
NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

**Home | About | Donate**

## **Justice for Warriors Newsletter**



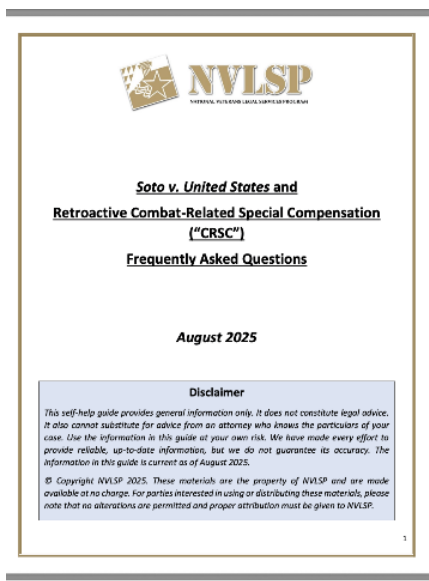
**September 2025**

### **Litigation Update**

**NVLSP Issues FAQ for Veterans on Retroactive Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC) under Supreme Court Unanimous Ruling on *Soto v. United States***

Pro Bono Counsel Sidley Austin LLP

On June 12, 2025, the U.S. Supreme Court [ruled](#) unanimously in favor of a class of over 9,000 disabled Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard veterans who were wrongfully limited to six-years of retroactive Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC). The lead plaintiff in the case, Mr. Simon Soto, served in the United States Marine Corps from August 2000 to April 2006, with two tours of duty in Iraq where he searched for, recovered, and processed remains of war casualties. From his service, Mr. Soto was diagnosed with post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), was medically discharged, and awarded permanent medical disability retirement. In 2016, Mr. Soto applied for CRSC, which the Navy granted. However, the Navy limited its payment to Mr. Soto to only six years of retroactive pay, relying on a statute of limitations in a federal law called the Barring Act.



The Supreme Court unanimously held that there is no six-year cap on retroactive CRSC payments.

On August 25, 2025, NVLSP published a [Frequently Asked Questions](#) (FAQ) guide regarding the [Soto](#) case.

## NVLSP In The News

[Stars & Stripes](#) – Reporter Hope Hodge Seck interviewed Rochelle Bobroff, Director of Lawyers Serving Warriors®, Pro Bono Program of NVLSP, on the issue of bad paper discharges. The article appeared on August 29, 2025.

[Military.com](#) – Reporter Patricia Kime spoke with NVLSP Director of Litigation, Renee Burbank, regarding caregivers lawsuits. The article appeared on August 14, 2025.

[Connecting Vets](#) – Reporter Julia LeDoux covered the landmark decision in *Soto v. U.S.* and cited NVLSP Executive Director, Paul Wright, in her story. The article appeared on June 17, 2025.

[Military.com](#) - NVLSP Director of Litigation, Renee Burbank, spoke with Reporter Patricia Kime on the unanimous victory in *Soto v. U.S.* and the potential financial impact for veterans. The article appeared on June 13, 2025.

## NVLSP On The Move

### National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs Annual Training Conference

Cheyenne, WY  
September 7-9, 2025

NVLSP Of Counsel, Tom Herthel (center), was recognized following his presentation at the National Association of State Directors of Veterans Affairs (NASDVA). On the left is John A. Scocos, NASDVA Executive Director, and to the right is Brian Love, Director, Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency.



## Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) 5th Annual Commander's Conference Lexington, KY

On August 29, 2025, NVLSP staff attended the Kentucky Department of Veterans Affairs (KDVA) 5th Annual Commander's Conference in Lexington, KY.



NVLSP Director of Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) Litigation, Stacy Tromble (above), discusses Total Disability based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU) with attendees.

NVLSP Executive Director, Paul Wright (left), shares his insights with veterans advocates.

## Texas Veterans Commission's Annual Training Conference

NVLSP participated in the recent Texas Veterans Commission's Annual Training Conference in July 2025. Left to right: NVLSP Director of Training and Publications Richard Spataro, TVC Executive Director Thomas Palladino, NVLSP Special Counsel Louis George, and TVC Program Operations Director Charles Catoe.



## Virginia State Bar Association Names NVLSP Appellate Attorney Brandy Disbennett-Albrecht 2025-2026 Chair of the VSB Military and Veteran's Law Section

Ms. Brandy Disbennett-Albrecht is an Appellate Attorney with NVLSP, mentoring and advising pro bono attorneys representing veterans and survivors through NVLSP's Lawyers Serving Warriors<sup>®</sup> program. An experienced veterans' law practitioner, Ms. Disbennett has over 10 years of experience in both public and private practice, representing veterans before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. Ms. Disbennett has delivered over 1,500 hours of training in the field of veterans law, including continuing legal

education presentations, and other public speaking events. She has also authored several published articles related to the practice of veterans law.

## Webinars

NVLSP continues its dedication to veteran law education by growing its webinar schedule in an effort to educate more veterans advocates on strategies for securing disability benefits for their clients. Experienced NVLSP attorneys will lead discussions on the following topics:



- An Advocate's Guide to Serving the Aging Veteran Population (October 28-30)
- Navigating VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (December 2-4)

NVLSP also has a [comprehensive library](#) of over 20 previously recorded webinars that are available at your convenience.

### Webinar topics include:

- VA Accreditation Training: Attorney and Agent Practice before the VA
- Navigating the VA's Modernized/AMA Review System
- VA Benefits Based on National Guard and Reserve Service
- How Involvement with the Criminal Justice System Impacts VA Benefits
- And many more!

For more information on NVLSP's Training and Publications program [watch this video](#).

NVLSP's Training & Publications program also offers: [in-person training](#), the [Online Basic Training Course](#), the [Veterans Benefits Manual](#), and the [VA Benefit Identifier App](#).

## WAYS YOU CAN HELP

We hope this newsletter inspires you to become more active with NVLSP. If you want to help NVLSP do more for our veterans, here are a few suggestions.

1. You can follow us on [X](#), connect with us on [LinkedIn](#), and like us on [Facebook](#).
2. Help us promote our free [App](#) for veterans.
3. Tell a friend about [NVLSP](#).



We look forward to connecting with you again soon!

**STAY CONNECTED:**



**[www.nvlsp.org](http://www.nvlsp.org)**

[Donate](#)

National Veterans Legal Services Program | 1100 Wilson Boulevard Suite 900 | Arlington, VA  
22209 US

[Unsubscribe](#) | [Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data Notice](#)



Try email marketing for free today!