

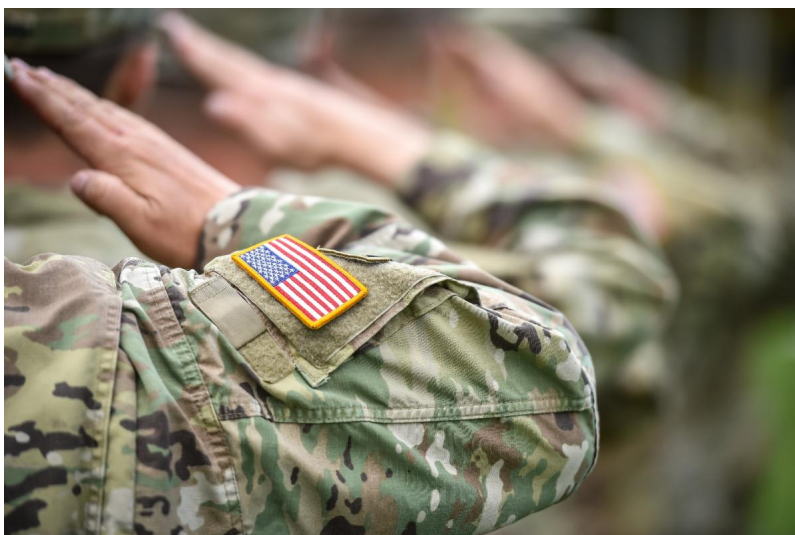


NVLSP

NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

[Home](#) | [About](#) | [Donate](#)

Justice for Warriors Newsletter



Summer 2026

Dear Friends,

As we celebrate the 250th Anniversary of our Nation this summer, we also honor the service and sacrifice of the veterans who have defended it. At NVLSP, our mission is to ensure that the government delivers to veterans, active-duty service members and their families the benefits they have earned through their service. Thank you for standing with us and making our mission possible. We hope you enjoy this issue highlighting our work and impact.



Sincerely,

Paul Wright
Executive Director

NVLSP IN THE NEWS

NVLSP'S BRANDY DISBENNETT-ALBRECHT APPOINTED TO VIRGINIA BOARD OF VETERANS SERVICES



NVLSP congratulates Appellate Attorney Brandy Disbennett-Albrecht on her appointment to the Virginia Board of Veterans Services by Governor Abigail Spanberger. Announced on May 22, 2026, the appointment recognizes Brandy's longstanding commitment to serving veterans and advancing veterans' law.

Brandy was officially sworn into her new role on June 18, 2026, by The Honorable Dawn Futrell, General District Court Judge for the City of Martinsville.

In addition to this appointment, Brandy serves as Chair of the Virginia State Bar's Military & Veterans Law Section Board of Governors and helped lead the Virginia State Bar Military & Veterans Law Symposium this spring, bringing together legal professionals to discuss issues impacting veterans and military families.

Learn more:

- Governor of Virginia announcement:
<https://www.governor.virginia.gov/newsroom/news-releases/2026/may-releases/name-1118378-en.html>
- Virginia State Bar Military & Veterans Law Section:
<https://vsb.org/site/sections/military-and-veterans-law/>

Federal News Network

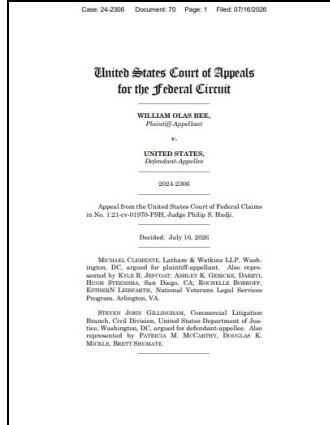
On May 5, 2026, Anastasia Obis reported on the lawsuit filed by the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) and Dechert LLP challenging the denial of Transitional Assistance Management Program (TAMP) benefits to Reservists. The lawsuit could affect thousands of current and former National Guard and Reserve members and their families. The article features comments from NVLSP Senior Managing Attorney Esther Leibfarth.

LITIGATION UPDATE

Federal Circuit Holds Liberal Consideration Applies to Military Fitness Determinations for Medical Retirement

Pro Bono Counsel: Latham & Watkins

On July 16, 2026, in *Bee v. United States*, the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit [ruled](#) in favor of William Bee, a combat veteran, who was wrongfully denied medical retirement. Mr. Bee is represented by the National Veterans Legal Services Program and Latham & Watkins LLP.



Mr. Bee served as an Infantry Marine with the rating of Infantry Unit Leader, deploying to Afghanistan four times. During his final deployment in Afghanistan, a massive explosion caused a building to collapse on him and his unit. Two Marines under his command were killed, others were seriously injured, and Mr. Bee was knocked unconscious. He was later diagnosed with Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) and Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) and was awarded the Purple Heart.

Despite his debilitating combat injuries, Mr. Bee was not referred into the military disability evaluation system. Instead, he was reassigned to non-operational positions, first supervising a urinalysis program and then as an instructor for Navy chaplains and medics. Post-discharge, the VA awarded a 90% disability rating for his PTSD and TBI. Years later, Mr. Bee applied to the Board for Correction of Naval Records ("Board") for retroactive medical retirement. A veteran who is medically retired is entitled to monthly retirement payments and military medical care ("Tricare") for the veteran and the veteran's spouse and dependent children. The Board denied his request and the Court of Federal Claims affirmed that decision. The Federal Circuit's July 16, 2026 decision vacated that judgment. [Read more here.](#)

NVLSP joins other Veterans groups to express concerns on Take Care of American Veterans Tax Act

On June 24, 2026, [NVLSP joined fellow Veterans Service Organizations in signing a letter](#) to Congress expressing concerns regarding the funding mechanism included in the Take Care of American Veterans Act. The letter highlights the potential consequences of the proposed funding approach and urges policymakers to ensure that veterans' benefits and services remain adequately funded and protected.



Oral Arguments in *Nelson v. Collins* before U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC)

(Pictured Left to Right) NVLSP Director of CAVC Litigation Stacy Tromble, NVLSP Staff Attorney Ryan Kelley, NVLSP Co-Founder and Special Counsel Bart Stichman, NVLSP Director of Litigation Renee Burbank, and

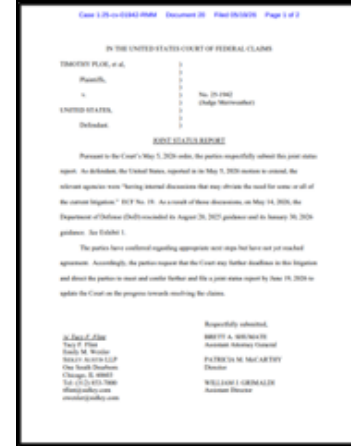
NVLSP Senior Managing Appellate Attorney Christopher G. Murray.

Renee Burbank presented oral argument in [Nelson V. Collins](#) at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) on June 17, 2026.

Litigation Brought By NVLSP And Sidley Austin Leads To Department Of Defense Guidance Implementing Full Retroactive Combat-Related

Special Compensation Benefits Pro Bono Counsel: Sidley Austin LLP

The Department of Defense (DoD) issued Guidance in August 2025 and January 2026 that instituted a new policy limiting retroactive benefits for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC). The Guidance applied to applications received after August 20, 2025, and cut off all retroactive CRSC benefits prior to the month after the application was filed. The new Guidance was issued in response to the Supreme Court's June 2025 unanimous decision in [Soto v. United States](#) brought by the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) and Sidley Austin LLP. The Supreme Court held in *Soto* that a DOD policy limiting the effective date of CRSC to 6 years prior to the date of application did not comport with the CRSC statute.



On May 14, 2026, DOD issued new [guidance](#) that retracted the limitations on retroactive CRSC benefits in the August 2025 and January 2026 policies. The May 2026 Guidance requires the branches to adhere to the effective date directed by the CRSC statute and further states that DOD will review the records of veterans impacted by the earlier Guidance and issue revised, corrected decisions.

For more information, see NVLSP's [Frequently Asked Questions](#)

To read more of NVLSP's recent litigation updates, please see the following:

- [NVLSP and Dechert File Class Action Lawsuit Challenging Denial of Transitional Assistance Management Program Benefits to Reservists](#)
- [NVLSP Achieves Major Victory For All Veterans Using Medication To Treat Musculoskeletal Disabilities: VA Cannot Award A Lower Rating For Those Disabilities Based On Any Ameliorative Medication Effects](#)

NVLSP IN ACTION



NVLSP Annual Wall Washing Event July 18, 2026

Volunteers of the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) and pro bono partner White & Case gathered to honor our veterans and wash the Korean War Veterans Memorial in Washington D.C.

**NVLSP Executive Director Paul Wright visits Lorain County, Elyria, OH
June 19, 2026**

Paul Wright, NVLSP Executive Director, joined Lorain County for their annual Military Appreciation Night with the Crushers. Paul had the honor of throwing out the ceremonial first pitch. The event celebrated a historic milestone—the groundbreaking partnership between NVLSP and the Lorain County Veterans Service Commission, making Lorain County the first county in the nation to establish this level of collaboration with NVLSP.



**Oral Arguments in *Williams v. Collins*
before U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans
Claims (CAVC)
Albany, NY
March 26, 2026**

NVLSP was at Albany Law School for oral arguments in *Williams v. Collins* before U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) panel on March 26, 2026.

Pictured (Left to Right): NVLSP Director of CAVC Litigation Stacy Tromble, NVLSP Appellate Attorney Rebecca Pierce, and NVLSP Senior Managing Appellate Attorney Christopher Murray.

STAFF PROFILE

Sean Wojciechowski



Sean Wojciechowski is the Equal Justice Works Fellow sponsored by Lawyers Serving Warriors® partner Latham & Watkins LLP at NVLSP. Sean combines his military and medical experience with his legal training to help veterans secure the Department of Defense (DoD) benefits they have earned.

Inspired by his grandfather's service in World War II, his father's service during the Vietnam era, and his brother's two tours in Iraq, Sean joined the U.S. Army in 2011 as a combat medic. He deployed twice to Afghanistan before becoming a certified occupational therapy assistant at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center. While caring for wounded service members, he had witnessed not only their physical injuries but also the legal and administrative barriers many faced after leaving the military. Encouraged by mentors and even one of his patients, Sean pursued law school at Penn State University Dickinson School of Law.

One past experience continues to motivate Sean's work today. More than a decade after treating a soldier who lost both legs in Afghanistan, Sean learned the veteran had never been informed that he was eligible for Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC). Sean connected him with Lawyers Serving Warriors®, and is currently helping him secure retroactive benefits dating back

to 2014. The experience reinforced how many veterans are unaware of the benefits they have earned.

Sean first joined NVLSP in 2023 as a Ron Flagg Intern and quickly found a team that reminded him of the military. "The camaraderie here is very unique," he said. "Everyone is willing to help and support one another."

Today, his fellowship focuses on expanding access to DoD benefits for members of the special operations community. In addition to screening cases and working with pro bono attorneys, Sean conducts outreach to service members and military medical professionals, encouraging better injury documentation to help veterans access benefits in the future.

Outside of work, Sean enjoys reading, fishing, watching sports, and spending time with his children, cats, and chickens!

For more articles about Sean's work at NVLSP please see:

- [Military.com](#)
- [Sean Wojciechowski interview with Fox 8 News Now](#)

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:



- Identifying Inadequate VA Exams by Louis George
 - August 18th and 19th for VSOs
 - August 20th for Attorneys
- Overcoming Common Obstacles in MST Claims by Alexis Ivory
 - September 29th and 30th for VSOs
 - October 1st for Attorneys

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!

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](#).

WE'RE CELEBRATING OUR 45th ANNIVERSARY THIS YEAR! ...MORE TO COME!

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:



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!