



# NVLSP

NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM



**2019 REVIEW**

**NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM'S  
PRO BONO PROGRAM:  
LAWYERS SERVING WARRIORS®**

**2019 Review of  
The National Veterans Legal Services Program  
Pro Bono Program:  
Lawyers Serving Warriors®**

**“To ensure that the government delivers to our nation's 22 million veterans and active duty personnel the benefits to which they are entitled because of disabilities resulting from their military service to our country.”**

The National Veterans Legal Services Program's (NVLSP) mission is the bedrock of all we do. In 2007, NVLSP created our trailblazing pro bono program, Lawyers Serving Warriors® as an extension of our mission and to leverage our expertise and magnify our impact to allow us to provide life-changing assistance to more veterans than would otherwise be possible. Today, NVLSP is delighted that our pro bono program has flourished thanks to the generous support and enthusiasm of our partners. In 2019, NVLSP's pro bono partners donated over 53,800 hours of legal services worth over \$35,000,000 to our nation's veterans.

This Review is a celebration of our collaboration. The Review expresses NVLSP's sincere appreciation for the legal work provided by law firms and corporate legal departments nationwide to enable service members and veterans to obtain the benefits they deserve. We highlight some of the victories obtained in 2019 as well as volunteers who accepted pro bono cases and projects in 2019 and attended LSW clinics in 2019.

NVLSP looks forward to continuing to work together with all of our pro bono partners to make sure our nation's veterans receive the disability benefits to which they are legally entitled.



Bart Stichman  
Executive Director  
National Veterans Legal Services Program



Rochelle Bobroff  
Director of Pro Bono Program  
Lawyers Serving Warriors®

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

WHAT WE DO.....	4
VICTORY LAP.....	7
THANK YOU TO OUR PRO BONO PARTNERS.....	21
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY.....	21
THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEGAL REPRESENTATION.....	22
THANK YOU TO OUR CLINIC PARTNERS.....	42



*NVLSP Senior Staff Attorney David Sonenshine at a clinic at Walter Reed National Military Medical Center.*

## 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 disability benefits, both at the Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs. Below are the most common types of cases.

### **Military Medical Retirement**

LSW pro bono volunteer attorneys represent both service members and veterans who are seeking a military medical retirement. Military medical retirement benefits include monthly tax-free military disability payment benefits, medical care through TRICARE for the veteran and his or her spouse for life, TRICARE for the veteran's children while they remain dependents, and a military retiree ID card that gives the veteran access to military bases and amenities.

While still on active duty, service members applying for a military medical retirement are provided a formal hearing during the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) process. Pro bono volunteer attorneys gather medical and lay evidence, prepare witnesses and present oral arguments. In addition, a 5-to-10-page brief is submitted.

Veterans who were improperly denied a military medical retirement during the IDES process can appeal by filing a brief at

a military board, such as the Board for Correction of Military Records. Pro bono volunteer attorneys review the evidence in the veteran's file and prepare a 12-to-15-page brief.

If unsuccessful, these cases may be appealed to federal court.

### **Discharge Upgrades**

LSW pro bono 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). The discharge upgrade may help veterans receive VA benefits and health care, improve employment opportunities, and restore reputation and self-esteem. Many Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), traumatic brain injuries (TBI), or other mental health conditions that are related to military service or are survivors of Military Sexual Trauma. Pro bono volunteer attorneys submit a 10-to-15-page legal brief 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 personal appearance.

### **Personality Disorder Discharges**

LSW pro bono volunteer attorneys assist veterans improperly separated based on an alleged personality or adjustment disorder. Administrative separations for personality or adjustment disorders are often wrongfully used by commanders to discharge service members, because the process is more expedient and has fewer protections for service members than the military disability evaluation system. Many service members administratively separated for a personality or adjustment disorder were improperly diagnosed, and in fact were suffering from a service-incurred mental disability, such as PTSD or a TBI. These cases may involve a request for a discharge upgrade, an application for a military medical retirement, or both.

### **Combat-Related Special Compensation**

Medically 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 application form. LSW volunteer attorneys also submit a brief and additional evidence that demonstrates the veteran's disabilities satisfy the statutory definition of "combat-related."

### **Military Sexual Trauma**

LSW pro bono volunteer attorneys represent veterans with claims for service-connected disability benefits for PTSD or other mental or physical conditions as a result of sexual trauma that occurred during military service. Volunteer attorneys submit a 7-to-10-page legal brief to the VA, asserting that the veteran's disabilities are service-connected and should be compensated. When a veteran's condition is "service-connected," he or she receives a disability rating that corresponds with a tax-free monthly benefit check. Some Military Sexual Trauma cases may involve a personal appearance hearing.

### **Appeals**

LSW pro bono volunteer attorneys file appellate briefs for veterans at the Board of Veterans Appeals (BVA) and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). At the BVA, volunteer attorneys write an approximately 10-page legal brief and gather relevant medical and lay evidence in support of the veteran. Common issues include service-connecting disabilities related to military service, earlier effective date for benefits, or higher disability ratings. If unsuccessful at the BVA, the cases proceed to the CAVC, at which briefs are usually 15 to 20 pages. Further appeal may be had to the Federal Circuit.

### **Systemic Reform Projects**

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

### **Equal Justice Works Fellowship**

Hogan Lovells and Lockheed Martin sponsored LSW's Equal Justice Works

Fellowship to develop a national medical-legal partnership to obtain medical and/or psychological assessments and records reviews to support veterans' applications for benefits before military correction boards and the VA.

## 2019 REVIEW

# VICTORY LAP

Here are some examples of how service members and veterans were assisted through the dedicated work of our pro bono partners. These victorious decisions were issued in 2019.

### **Military Medical Retirement – Hearings for Service Members**

John Miller and Elizabeth Prewitt of Latham & Watkins assisted a Navy Special Warfare Combatant-Craft (SWCC) Crewman through the Disability Evaluation System. In 2018, his craft experienced a bow plunge at 50 miles per hour off the coast of Iran, submerging him and the craft under water and causing him to suffer a Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI). Prior to Latham & Watkins' representation, the informal Physical Evaluation Board found him fit for duty. At the formal Physical Evaluation Board hearing at the Washington DC Navy Yard, the pro bono volunteers demonstrated that the dizziness, migraines and vertigo caused by his TBI left him unable to return to a SWCC boat or to work more than 24 hours a week in any capacity. The Board then found him unfit with a disability rating of 50 percent based on a combat-related injury. This victory provided the veteran, his wife and their newborn son with quality healthcare and an opportunity to claim Combat-Related Special Compensation.

Austin P. Maloney of Hunton Andrews Kurth represented a Marine Forces Special Operator with over 14 years of service who was seeking medical retirement. Prior to the firm's involvement, he was found unfit only for his migraines, which were rated at zero percent, despite having numerous chronic physical injuries. At the Navy Formal Physical Evaluation Board hearing, the Hunton Andrews Kurth pro bono volunteer convinced the Board to find him permanently unfit at 40 percent for his physical injuries, including his neck, back and shoulder. This outcome will ensure that the veteran, his wife and their four children have access to quality healthcare and receive the maximum monetary benefit possible.

Holly Victorson and Rachel Cohen of Latham & Watkins appealed the Navy's denial of a medical retirement to a Hospital Corpsman who had been sexually assaulted. Despite her diagnosis of PTSD and depression, the Navy misinterpreted a comment in a hospital record regarding her difficulties coping with stress to justify labeling her with a personality disorder. Latham & Watkins argued in both a written



appeal and at the Navy Formal Physical Evaluation Board hearing that the Corpsman had never been diagnosed with a personality disorder; instead, her PTSD and depression merited a medical retirement. While her request for medical retirement was pending, the Navy began to process her for an administrative discharge for misconduct, which resulted from her disability. The pro bono volunteers' advocacy convinced the Navy to halt the administrative discharge and stipulate to her request for disability retirement for her PTSD.

### **Military Medical Retirement – Appeals**

Andres Barajas and Nicholas Willingham of Sidley filed an appeal in the U.S. District Court of the District of D.C. challenging the Army's denial of a medical retirement to an Infantryman who served for nine years, injuring his back. Although the Army acknowledged the back injury rendered him unfit, the military's medical exam gave him a low rating, resulting in the denial of a disability retirement. A contemporaneous VA exam gave him a higher rating for the same condition. The veteran appealed to the Physical Disability Board of Review on his own, but the Board continued to rely on the military exam and upheld the denial. The Sidley pro bono volunteers briefed cross-motions for summary judgment. The Court held that the Board's decision was arbitrary and capricious. The Court noted that the Board failed to consider the Infantryman's pain, as required by the regulations. The Court further found fault with the Board's reliance on the Infantryman's performance of mailroom

duties, when he was unable to lift weights over 20 pounds, as required for an Infantryman. The Court criticized the Board for failing to account for contradictory evidence. Because the Board ignored significant evidence, the Court held that it was unable to conclude that the Board's decision was supported by substantial evidence. The Court granted Sidley's motion for summary judgment and remanded to the Board for proceedings consistent with its opinion.

Eric Aaserud and Lee Curtis of Perkins Coie sought review in the Court of Federal Claims for a veteran Army officer with over 25 years of reserve and active duty service. The officer had received numerous awards, including the Kuwait Liberation Medal, the National Defense Service Medal, and the Southwest Asia Service Medal with two Bronze Stars. The Army denied him a medical retirement, instead separating him for misconduct due to driving under the influence. He applied on his own to the Board for Correction of Military Records, but was denied, even though a medical opinion obtained by the Board concluded that the veteran's mental health conditions contributed to his misconduct. The pro bono team's Court complaint demonstrated that the officer had a well-documented history of mental health issues (including depression leading to multiple attempted suicides) contributing to his subsequent record of misconduct and poor performance. The Court remanded the matter for further consideration by the Board. The Army obtained a new medical opinion justifying its earlier decision. The pro bono volunteers then obtained an



independent medical opinion supporting medical retirement, and the team submitted legal arguments to the Board. This advocacy convinced the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army to revoke her previous decision. The veteran was awarded a medical retirement, with a disability rating of 90 percent.

Christian Curran and Steve McBrady of Crowell & Moring appealed the denial of medical retirement on behalf of an Army combat medic who served in multiple combat deployments to Iraq. He was awarded four Army Commendation Medals, an Overseas Service Ribbon, a United Nations Service Medal, an Expert Field Medical Badge, and a NATO Medal. Despite his PTSD diagnosis, the Army separated him without the appropriate processing for medical retirement. He sought a medical retirement from the Board for Correction of Military Records on his own. Even though the Board they acknowledged his in-service PTSD, they did not award a medical retirement. Instead, the Board remanded the case to an Army physician, who decided that no further disability processing was warranted. After the pro bono volunteers filed a detailed Court complaint setting forth the facts and legal errors, including the denial of due process, the matter was remanded back to the Board. The Board was persuaded that the veteran had been deprived of due process and that there was ample medical evidence supporting medical retirement. The Board awarded medical retirement back to the date of discharge with a 50 percent rating for the veteran's PTSD.

Kate Middleton and Frank Swain of Faegre Baker Daniels aided a Navy Computer System Maintenance Technician who was diagnosed in service with a heart condition. Soon thereafter, the sailor began suffering from severe anxiety and panic attacks, requiring inpatient hospitalization and outpatient treatment. He underwent a computerized psychological test which stated that he might have a Personality Disorder. He was administratively separated for a Personality Disorder, based solely upon this computer test. The VA diagnosed him with Panic Disorder, and in a mental health examination, the VA examiner expressly stated that the sailor "showed no evidence of personality disorder." The veteran applied pro se to the Board for Correction of Naval Records for a medical retirement, but was denied. The pro bono volunteers filed an appeal in the U.S. Court of Federal Claims. The matter was remanded back to the Board, and the Board obtained an advisory opinion which recommended affirmance. The Faegre Baker Daniels team obtained an independent medical opinion to counter the advisory opinion. The Board held that discharge was in error, because the sailor was not properly counseled and there were no deficiencies in his ability to perform his duties. Since the discharge was in error, the Board awarded him service credit, which entitles him to back pay.

Daniel Meron and Kristin Murphy of Latham & Watkins represented an Army Automated Logistical Specialist who had been sexually assaulted twice within six months during her first year of military service by two different senior enlisted

Soldiers. The VA determined that these events caused severe PTSD, but the Army Physical Evaluation Board asserted that her PTSD was not caused by military service and thus was not compensable for a military disability retirement. An application was turned away by the Physical Disability Board of Review and a complaint was dismissed by the U.S. District Court. Discouraged but not defeated, the pro bono volunteers discovered a relatively obscure and rarely used administrative board within the Army called the Army Physical Disability Review Board (APDRB). Representatives from the Army did not even know that this administrative board existed. There were no regulations, guidance documents, or instructions available to counsel regarding the APDRB. Counsel later found out that this was only the third case and second applicant before the APDRB since 2007. In late 2018, the veteran assisted by pro bono counsel appeared at a hearing before the APDRB. Finally, in June 2019, the APDRB issued a unanimous decision awarding the veteran a permanent disability retirement for PTSD due to Military Sexual Trauma (MST) with a disability rating of 70 percent. The Army finally recognized the MST the veteran suffered many years ago. She can finally close the door on her time in the Army and successfully move forward with her life.

Charles A. Gall of Hunton Andrews Kurth assisted a Marine Rifleman who was administratively separated for an alleged Personality Disorder. The Rifleman deployed to Iraq, earning numerous medals including a Combat Action Badge. When he

returned from this deployment, he reported depression and anger. He met diagnostic criteria for PTSD and depression, and the psychiatrist acknowledged that there was “insufficient” basis for a diagnosis of a Personality Disorder. Nevertheless, the psychiatrist predicted “problematic behavior.” The Rifleman was summarily discharged with the notation “Personality Disorder” on his discharge certificate and no consideration of his entitlement to a medical retirement. Post-discharge, the veteran completed a Bachelor of Science program and was admitted into law school. However, he still struggled with mental health conditions. The VA then diagnosed the veteran with PTSD, rated at 100 percent disabling. The Hunton pro bono volunteer filed an application with the Board for Correction of Naval Records for a medical retirement, supported by a detailed brief. The Board agreed that the veteran had combat-related PTSD, not a Personality Disorder, and the veteran was awarded a medical retirement. Paul Hunt of Latham & Watkins represented an Army Infantryman who deployed to Afghanistan, earning a Combat Infantry Badge and a Parachutist Badge. After this deployment, the soldier suffered an accident during an airborne training operation. The accident caused a compression fracture in his back, and after treatment, he continued to experience debilitating pain in his back and neck. The soldier was evaluated by the Army’s Physical Evaluation Board, which ignored the limitations on the range of motion in his back, giving him a low rating and denying a medical retirement. The Latham & Watkins volunteer submitted a brief to the Physical Disability Board of Review

highlighting the uncontroverted evidence of the reduction in his range of motion and arguing that the applicable regulations mandated a higher rating based on this limited range of motion. The Board was persuaded to increase his rating for his back from 10 percent to 40 percent, combining this with a 10 percent rating for his neck. With a total rating of 50 percent, he was awarded a medical retirement.

Michael Falk and Ryan Blake of Reed Smith aided an Army Infantryman who deployed to Iraq for twelve months and injured his back, rendering him unable to continue to serve as an Infantryman. The VA conducted a thorough medical examination which found limitations consistent with a 40 percent rating. The Army disregarded these detailed findings, conducting a more cursory examination that provided a 10 percent rating. The Army denied the Infantryman a medical retirement, based on its 10 percent rating. The Reed Smith pro bono volunteers submitted a detailed brief to the Army Board for Correction of Military Records, cataloguing the extensive medical documentation supporting a 40 percent rating. The Board agreed, providing the veteran a medical retirement. The Reed Smith team then helped him secure Combat-Related Special Compensation.

Darryl H. Steensma, Daniel Meron, Amanda Betsch, Andrew Dane, Brendan Haberle, and Thomas Watson of Latham & Watkins represented an Air Force Security Forces Journeyman who had been denied a medical retirement, because his injuries in both knees were given only one rating. The pro bono volunteers filed a brief in the Physical Board of Disability Review,

requesting that he be provided a separate rating for each knee, as required by the applicable regulations. Unfortunately, the Board did not change the ratings. The Latham & Watkins team then filed an appeal in the U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia. The parties agreed to a remand back to the Board. The pro bono volunteers filed a new brief, including attaching other Board decisions that properly gave each knee a separate rating. The Board reversed its earlier decision, providing a separate rating to each knee, which resulted in the veteran obtaining a medical retirement.

### **Discharge Upgrade**

Hannah Flint and Susan F. Wiltsie of Hunton Andrews Kurth aided a Marine who was distraught when her father died during her training. Her grief and depression interfered with her ability to serve. The military administratively discharged her for a purported Personality Disorder with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization. The VA subsequently diagnosed her with depression and not a personality disorder. Following treatment for her depression, the veteran obtained a law degree and is devoting her legal career to helping veterans. The pro bono volunteers submitted a brief to the Naval Discharge Review Board (NDRB) explaining how the veteran's grief impacted her service. The brief argued that the veteran was misdiagnosed with a personality disorder and that she was actually suffering from depression. In addition to the brief, the pro bono team also appeared on behalf of the

veteran at a hearing before the NDRB, presenting direct testimony and oral argument. The Board was persuaded to upgrade her discharge to fully Honorable and to change her narrative reason for separation from “Personality Disorder” to “Condition, Not a Disability.”

Richard Noland and John Zerwas of Eversheds Sutherland assisted an Army helicopter repair crew chief who deployed twice to the Iraq/Kuwait theater. After his second deployment, the soldier began to show signs of PTSD and depression. He was counseled for performance deficiencies and sought mental health treatment. Unfortunately, he went Absent without Leave (AWOL) for eight days. He was then diagnosed with an Adjustment Disorder and quickly administratively separated with a General (Under Honorable Conditions) characterization. He was subsequently diagnosed by the VA with PTSD and depression. After receiving treatment for these conditions, he completed his Bachelor of Science degree, was enrolled in a Masters of Business Administration Program and worked for defense contractors. The pro bono volunteers filed a brief in support of a discharge upgrade and represented him at an in-person hearing at the Army Discharge Review Board. They argued that his mental health condition mitigated his misconduct and merited an upgrade. The Board unanimously voted in less than 30 days to upgrade his discharge from General to fully Honorable. The Board explicitly found that “the Army misdiagnosed the...adjustment disorder” when veteran actually had PTSD. The Board held that the

“mental health conditions outweighed the misconduct.”

### **Discharge Upgrade/Military Sexual Trauma (MST)**

Shelby Anderson and Matt DelNero of Covington represented a Navy Hospital Corpsman who was sexually assaulted by a male service member in 1963. The Corpsman reported this sexual assault to military police. Nevertheless, the Navy accused the Corpsman of homosexuality and discharged him with an Other than Honorable characterization of service for participating in a homosexual act. The Covington pro bono volunteers filed a brief at the Board for Correction of Naval Records arguing that his discharge characterization should be upgraded, based on changes in policy that no longer view homosexual activity as misconduct and the fact that he was a survivor of a sexual assault. The Board agreed, finding that he was “the victim of MST.” They upgraded his discharge to Honorable and changed the narrative reason for separation to “Secretarial Authority.” After fifty-six years, this husband, father, and grandfather with a successful career in sales received the acknowledgement he deserved that his service was laudable.

Bria Cochran of Perkins Coie assisted a homeless veteran who was previously denied a discharge upgrade when he applied on his own. The veteran had been raped by a Superior while stationed in South Korea. The veteran was too ashamed and afraid to report the rape. He could not take the pressure of facing his aggressor and went absent without leave (AWOL). He was discharged with an Other than

Honorable characterization in lieu of trial by court-martial. Post-discharge, he was diagnosed with PTSD from MST. The brief by the Perkins Coie attorneys highlighted that the VA credited his account of MST in service and attributed his mental health symptoms to that stressor. The brief argued that he was due liberal consideration under current Department of Defense policy, because his misconduct was mitigated by MST. By a vote of 5-0, the Army Discharge Review Board held that his discharge was “inequitable” based on his post-discharge diagnosis of PTSD from MST. His characterization of service was upgraded to Honorable, and the narrative reason was changed to Secretarial Authority. This upgrade enables the veteran to obtain VA disability compensation and other benefits. Cochran was assisted by Alix Bromer of Perkins Coie.

### **Military Sexual Trauma (MST) VA Claims**

Katherine Bryan and Stacey Pagonis of Kirkland represented a veteran who was seeking service-connected disability benefits for PTSD from MST. The veteran first filed her claim in October 2011 and had been unsuccessful in obtaining benefits on her own. The veteran served in Army National Guard from June 1989 to April 1990, but she was sexually assaulted by her school instructor when she was assigned to Ft. Belvoir, VA for training. With assistance from the Kirkland pro bono volunteers, who filed a brief at the Board of Veterans’ Appeals, she received a favorable decision that granted service connection and a disability rating of 50 percent. She obtained

a monthly disability compensation benefit of \$880 and a back award of \$80,409.

Britt E. Anderson of Hunton Andrews Kurth took on the case of an Army veteran who enlisted when she was just 17 years old in 1981, a mere two years after forces began to integrate. In 1982, while serving in Georgia, the soldier was gang-raped and beaten by four servicemen at a private party. She was raped again later that year. After her discharge, she participated in a VA study on treatment for MST and then participated in a VA Women’s Trauma Recovery program. Nevertheless, her initial claim for benefits for PTSD from MST was denied. The pro bono volunteer submitted a detailed brief as well as lay statements and medical records. The veteran was granted service connection for PTSD from MST. She was awarded a monthly benefit of \$1,400 per month and a retroactive award of over \$36,000.

J.C. Ditzler and Terri Sutton of Cozen O’Connor represented a Marine veteran who was repeatedly sodomized by a superior officer during his service. The Marine attempted suicide in service due to the MST. The Marines then involuntarily discharged him as unfit due to a condition that is not a disability. The Cozen O’Connor pro bono volunteers worked diligently to develop lay statements as well as to develop medical evidence to support their written brief for the veteran’s initial claim. The Regional Office granted the claim for PTSD from MST. The veteran was provided a monthly benefit of \$1,404, with a back award of \$9,900.

Emily Garrison and Tim Marrinson of Reed Smith assisted a Navy veteran who was sexually assaulted by a Petty Officer while serving on board a ship. Post-discharge, he was diagnosed in a private psychiatric exam with PTSD. He was initially denied benefits for allegedly missing a VA exam, though he did not get notice of the appointment. With the support of pro bono volunteers, he was granted service connection for PTSD due to MST, obtaining monthly benefits of \$1,800 and a back award of \$75,700.

Lauren Cranford Katzeff and Andrew W. Shoyer of Sidley Austin, partnering with the Firm's client Christopher M. Heimann of AT&T, aided a Marine veteran who served for twenty years. She was raped at age 23, less than three years into her service. Her initial claim for benefits was denied. The Sidley pro bono volunteers submitted a thorough brief with lay statements and medical records documenting her PTSD from the MST. As a result, she was awarded service connection for PTSD related to MST, with monthly benefits of \$1,900 and a back award of \$43,700.

Shannon Daily, Maeve Olney, Jennifer E. Wuebker and Lisa Xia of Hunton Andrews Kurth represented an Army veteran who was sexually assaulted by his superior officer on numerous occasions, both when on active duty in California and then when stationed in Germany. He did not report the assaults due to fear of repercussions, and he served for ten years. After his discharge, he obtained treatment for PTSD from MST at the VA. His initial claim for benefits, filed

pro se, was denied for lack of documentation. The Hunton Andrews Kurth pro bono team filed an appeal at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Their brief included a detailed argument, a statement from the veteran, and a letter from a treating VA psychologist. The Board agreed that his PTSD was due to MST, providing monthly benefits of \$715 and a back award of \$30,500.

### **Combat-Related Special Compensation (CRSC)**

Irene Burke, Paul Wrede and Irene Zimmerman of Merck represented a veteran who had served in the Army, Navy and Air Force, including two tours of duty in Iraq with the Army Infantry. The veteran had earned numerous service awards, including the National Defense Service Medal with Bronze Star. While in Iraq, he survived several attacks from improvised explosive devices (IED), small arms fire and rockets. With help from Merck's pro bono volunteers, the veteran obtained tax-free CRSC benefits.

James Noblett and Amanda Camelotto of DLA Piper assisted an Army Attack Helicopter Repairer who rose to the rank of Sergeant (E-5). Over a 5-year period, she deployed to Iraq three times in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom, deploying for a total of 39 months. During these deployments, she was exposed to mortar fire and other aspects of combat that resulted in a diagnosis of PTSD or Other Specific Trauma and Stressor Related Disorder. She also developed tinnitus due to the noise from gunshots, mortars, and other instrumentalities of war. The Sergeant was awarded a Combat Action



Badge as a result of her service in combat. Pro bono volunteers from DLA Piper filed a brief in support of her application for Combat-Related Special Compensation. The brief and other evidence was so overwhelming that the Army approved the application in less than two weeks (a record turnaround for the Army). She will receive retroactive CRSC pay back to 2014 and monthly payments moving forward.

Brian Donnelly of Nixon Peabody appealed the denial of CRSC for an Air Force Sergeant. The Sergeant served in the Air Force's elite Phoenix Raven program, which provides ground security for aircraft transiting to high terrorist and criminal threat areas. He deployed to both Iraq and Afghanistan. The Sergeant had applied for CRSC on his own and then sought reconsideration, but lost due to "insufficient documentation." The Nixon Peabody pro bono volunteer submitted a Hostile Fire Pay Certification to corroborate the veteran's personal statements that he had been subjected to hostile fire. The Nixon Peabody brief set forth all the evidence in support of the veteran's claim. The veteran was awarded CRSC for his PTSD and other conditions, for a total combat-disability rating of 80 percent.

Joseph Nance of Latham & Watkins applied for CRSC for a Navy veteran who served as a tactical communications specialist in support of Naval Special Warfare units, including SEAL teams. While deployed to Afghanistan, the sailor experienced rocket, mortar, improvised explosive device and small arms fire nearly every day. With the assistance of Latham & Watkins, the

veteran obtained CRSC for anxiety and tinnitus, which were caused by his service in Afghanistan. He was awarded a monthly benefit of \$395 and a back award of \$1,580, tax free.

Lou Mejia of Perkins Coie represented an Army Special Forces Demolitions and Engineering Instructor. The soldier deployed several times to Afghanistan and South and Central America. From the deployments, he earned a Bronze Star, two Combat Infantry Badges and a Military Freefall Parachutist Badge. He suffered a spine injury in a parachute landing. During a deployment, his team breached the home of an IED maker. His fellow soldiers were injured, leaving him alone to continue the firefight. He exchanged gunfire with multiple individuals until targets were neutralized. Following the submission of a detailed brief by the Perkins Coie pro bono volunteer, the veteran was awarded CRSC for his PTSD and 15 physical conditions, for a total combat-related disability rating of 90 percent.

Nichole Williams-Miller of Verizon assisted an Army veteran who had deployed to Iraq as a Combat Engineer and subsequently to Afghanistan as a Motor Transport Operator. He was awarded a Combat Action Badge for his service transporting supplies in Afghanistan for one incident in which his team took small arms fire and their vehicle had several bullet holes. Following submission of a detailed brief from the Verizon pro bono volunteer, the veteran was awarded CRSC for his PTSD and tinnitus.



### **Appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA)**

Elena Kamenir and Adam Wenner of Orrick represented an Air Force veteran who served from 1966 to 1970 as a heavy equipment operator, earning an Air Force Commendation Medal for his service in Vietnam. He injured his back in service, and in 1977, he initially filed a claim for disability benefits for his back. His claim was denied, and a request to reopen the claim in 1997 was similarly denied. He applied again for reopening his claim in 2003, and that application resulted in an award of service connection effective 2003. The pro bono volunteers filed a detailed brief demonstrating that the documents which led to the award of service connection existed at the time of the 1977 decision, but these documents were not part of the claims file in 1977. The brief argued that under applicable case law, he was entitled to an earlier effective date. The Board agreed and granted benefits back to 1977.

Dane Jaques and Adriana Campos-Korn of Steptoe & Johnson undertook an appeal for an Army veteran who deployed to Kuwait and Iraq, earning a Combat Action Badge. The veteran had several service-connected conditions, including PTSD and TBI, none of which were individually rated at 100 percent. The pro bono volunteer filed a brief arguing for Total Disability Based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU) back to 2008 as well as Special Monthly Compensation. The Board was persuaded to award these additional benefits, noting the extreme severity of his TBI related conditions, including memory loss,

difficulty retaining information, impaired behavior, headaches, and difficulties with judgement, planning and organization. The veteran obtained over 10 years of additional benefits.

Sean Murray of White & Case assisted a Navy veteran who served from 1945 to 1964, deploying during World War II and the Korean War and earning numerous medals. The sailor underwent a series of related abdominal surgeries in service as well as in the years after discharge to treat worsening service-connected residuals. In 2016, he sought a higher rating for a ventral hernia relating to those surgeries, which had become prohibitively painful and inoperable due to surgical risk heightened by the hernia's poor condition and the existence of other residuals. The pro bono volunteer submitted a brief marshalling the extensive evidence that the sailor's hernia was "inoperable" under the relevant Diagnostic Code. The brief accordingly advocated a rating of 100 percent for the hernia. The Board concurred, concluding the hernia was inoperable and awarding a rating of 100 percent.

Amy Alderfer and Yue Han of Cozen O'Connor aided an Army veteran who had been awarded a Combat Infantryman Badge, Afghanistan Campaign Medal and Army Commendation Medal. He was service connected for PTSD, but his rating was 50 percent, despite severe symptoms. The pro bono volunteers submitted a brief extensively cataloguing the medical evidence in support of a higher rating and setting forth the applicable legal principles mandating a 100 percent rating. The Board

was convinced, increasing his rating to 100 percent for his PTSD.

Lauren Sandground of K&L Gates assisted an Army veteran who served in Vietnam. Prior to his service, he had been a farmer, but he injured his back in service. He attempted to resume farming after his service, but his back pain caused him to leave farm work. He tried construction work, but this was also too painful. He worked in building maintenance in a hospital for 25 years, but then he could not continue due to back pain. The pro bono volunteer filed a detailed brief advocating Total Disability Based on Individual Unemployability. The brief highlighted medical documentation and work history, as well as relevant case law. The Board was persuaded, increasing his disability rating to reflect total disability.

Joe Kim and David Fischer of Crowell & Moring represented an Army veteran who served on active military service in the Southwest Asia Theater of Operations during the Persian Gulf War from February to April 1991. The soldier experienced bilateral ankle joint pain after returning from the Gulf War. While he was entitled to a Gulf War presumption of service connection, he did not have a specific diagnosis of a condition causing his severe pain. Previously, the Board had twice denied service connection for his bilateral ankle disorder due to an undiagnosed condition, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims had twice reversed. This third time at the Board, the veteran had the support of pro bono volunteers who filed a brief detailing the evidence supporting his claim of a bilateral ankle disorder, including

numerous medical records noting his pain. The brief argued that this evidence met the legal requirements for service connection. The Board agreed and granted service connection for his bilateral ankle condition due to an undiagnosed condition.

Sean McEldowney and Sam Fitzpatrick of Kirkland & Ellis assisted a veteran who served approximately six years in the Marines and fifteen years in the Coast Guard. While in the Coast Guard, he was a rescue swimmer and survival technician. He injured his back during a helicopter hoisting operation that was part of a search-and-rescue training. He was given a military medical retirement. Although he was service connected for his back conditions, he was denied Total Disability Based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU). The pro bono volunteers filed a brief addressing his entitlement to TDIU for different periods of time, based on his changing VA disability ratings. The brief advocated for an award of TDIU from 2015 to the present and for a remand for additional development for the time from discharge to 2015. The Board was persuaded, granting benefits from 2015 and remanding the case to further consider an earlier effective date.

Tom DeSplinter, Steve Hamilton, and Joe Florczak of McGuire Woods aided an Army veteran who joined the Alabama Army National Guard in 1979. He served in combat in Iraq, subsequently suffering from PTSD. He was provided a military medical retirement in 2008. He was awarded service connection for his PTSD, but only at a rating of 30 percent. He was awarded Total Disability Based on Individual

Unemployability (TDIU), effective December 2012. He sought a higher rating for his PTSD and an earlier effective date for TDIU. The pro bono volunteers filed a brief setting forth the applicable legal standard and extensive evidence for a PTSD rating of 70 percent. In addition, the brief marshalled the law and evidence in support of a November 2009 effective date for TDIU. The Board was convinced that the effective date for TDIU was 2009 and remanded the matter for a new examination and thorough review of records to further assess the PTSD rating.

Ray Wuslich of Winston & Strawn represented an Air Force veteran who served from 1955 to 1958, and thereafter was employed by private companies as an aircraft mechanic and aircraft maintenance supervisor. The VA awarded him service connected disability benefits for back conditions. He was awarded Total Disability Based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU), effective February 2013. He sought an earlier effective date for TDIU back to 2007. The pro bono volunteers filed a brief arguing that even though he worked in that period, he was working in a "protected work" environment that required significant accommodations from his employer, including reduced work hours, flexible medical leave and modified duties. The brief contained extensive factual and legal arguments in support of his claim. The Board was convinced and gave him six additional retroactive years of TDIU.

Phillip Garber of Dechert assisted a US Navy veteran who had symptoms of sleep apnea during service but did not seek

medical treatment until after discharge. His claim for service connection for his sleep apnea has been denied. The pro bono volunteers filed a brief detailing extensive lay evidence that he suffered from sleep apnea during service, including a statement from his ex-wife that when he was in service, she was awakened on a nightly basis by him gasping and struggling to get air. The brief advocated that there was ample lay and medical evidence to support the claim. The Board was persuaded and awarded service connection for this debilitating condition.

### **Appeals at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC)**

Ranganath Sudarshan, Benjamin Block, Kathryn Cahoy and Isaac Belfer of Covington filed a petition for extraordinary relief on behalf of a class of veterans whose claims were unreasonably delayed. The class representatives had each filed an appeal to the Board of Veterans' Appeals and suffered a multi-year delay waiting for the VA to begin moving their appeals forward in a process called "certification." In their filing, the pro bono team asserted that the Secretary's failure to timely certify the veterans' appeals to the Board violated the veterans' right to procedural due process under the Fifth Amendment, constituted agency action unreasonably delayed and violated a statutory right to have veterans' appeals "considered and decided [by the Board] in regular order according to its place upon the [Board's] docket." Moreover, the petition stated that the "extreme" certification delays were likely encountered by hundreds, if not

thousands, of claimants nationwide. On June 13, 2019, the CAVC granted relief, certifying its first class action. The CAVC ruled on the merits that that 18-month or longer VA delays to certify appeals are “per se unreasonable.” “Such delays are particularly intolerable,” the Court stated, “because they consist of nothing but waiting in line: ... no action whatsoever on the part of VA” while the veterans have continued to wait. The court ordered the VA to review and move forward all class members’ appeals by October 11, 2019.

Matthew Benedetto and Alex Gazikas of WilmerHale represented a US Army veteran who worked as an information systems operator. She gave birth while deployed to Korea, and she reported that the epidural needle snapped and broke while inside her back, which caused sudden, sharp, burning pain. She subsequently worked on top-secret matters at the Pentagon, experiencing significant stress. She did not document her conditions during service, because she feared it would impact her career. Her supervisor at the Pentagon gave a statement corroborating that a soldier who took more than two sick calls in that line of work would be reassigned. The veteran applied on her own for service connection for a lower back disability and hypertension, but her claims were denied by the Board of Veterans’ Appeals. The pro bono volunteers submitted a detailed brief arguing that it was an error for the Board to discredit her testimony about her conditions and to disregard evidence of the Army’s culture of nonreporting medical conditions. The Court was persuaded, concluding that the

Board provided an inadequate statement of reasons and bases for its opinion. The Court remanded the matter for the Board to more carefully review her case.

Joseph Gribbin, Kevin Flannery, and Dan Roberts of Dechert assisted an Air Force veteran who served for over 20 years as an aircrew aerial gunner craftsman and aircraft armament systems craftsman. During his service, hydraulic fluid from aircraft sometimes leaked onto his clothing and soaked through to his calves and heels. Ever since that time, he suffered from a red, itchy rash and dry scaling on his calves and heels, which has been diagnosed as eczema. While the VA granted service connection for his skin condition, they assigned a 0 percent rating, which confers no monetary benefits. The pro bono volunteers submitted a detailed brief to the Court explaining that the Board of Veterans’ Appeals did not use the proper diagnostic code and failed to address whether the veteran’s use of topical steroids constituted systemic therapy that would warrant a higher rating. The Court agreed that the Board had not provided an adequate statement of reasons and bases and remanded for fulsome consideration of these issues.

Skye Mathieson, Matthew Welling and Brian McLaughlin of Crowell & Moring aided an Air Force veteran who had been raped and physically assaulted by a fellow service member. The VA granted service connection for her anxiety disorder caused by the rape and assault, but the Board of Veterans’ Appeals capped the rating at 50 percent and denied Total Disability Based on Individual Unemployability (TDIU). The

pro bono volunteers appealed to the Court, providing a thorough explanation of the applicable law and facts warranting a higher rating and TDIU. The Court held that the Board had not provided an adequate statement of reasons and bases, remanding the case back to the Board. Crowell subsequently assisted the veteran before the Board in the remand.

Samuel Fitzpatrick and Helena Kiepora of Kirkland & Ellis represented an Air Force veteran whose service included maintenance of computer systems at the Royal Saudi Air Force Base. He developed lymphoma approximately ten years after his service and filed a claim for service connection. He reported that he was given a Havrix vaccine prior to deployment which he believed caused overstimulation of his immune system, leading to his lymphoma. The VA ignored this possible causation, and the Board of Veterans' Appeals relied upon the lack of documentation of the Havrix vaccine in the medical records to deny the claim. The pro bono volunteers thoroughly briefed the requirement for the Board to consider and respond to the veteran's testimony regarding the cause of his medical condition, cataloguing the extensive statements by the veteran regarding the vaccine and explaining the relevant legal standard. The Court noted that the medical records did not specify any vaccines administered in service and observed that

lay testimony may be competent to prove the vaccine was given to him. The Court remanded the case with the explicit instruction for the Board to address the theory of service connection advanced by the veteran. Kirkland is now assisting the veteran before the Board in the remand.

Andrew O'Neill and Nicole A. Heise of Sidley Austin assisted an Army veteran who had suffered numerous sinus conditions in service, including nosebleeds. Post-discharge, he was awarded service connection for nosebleeds due to an environmental hazard, but rated at 0 percent, which does not confer monetary benefits. He appealed on his own, getting the rating increased to 10 percent and subsequently to 30 percent. The Board of Veterans' Appeals refused to raise the rating to 50 percent. The pro bono volunteer submitted a brief to the Court contending that the Board violated its duty to assist by relying on inadequate medical examination reports and failing to seek relevant, adequately-identified medical records. The brief further advocated reversal due to the Board's failure to provide an adequate statement of its reasons for denying the higher rating given the evidence of the severity of his symptoms. The Court agreed that the Board had erred in both respects and remanded the matter for the Board to remedy these errors.

# THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

We express deep appreciation for the contributions that enable the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) to serve our warriors. Your financial support made it possible for us to assist thousands of veterans, service members and their families. We list below sponsors of NVLSP's Annual Benefit Reception and additional supporters of our program.

## 2019 Annual Event Sponsors

### **Diamond (\$50,000+)**

Finnegan  
Kirkland & Ellis  
WilmerHale

### **Platinum (\$30,000)**

Covington & Burling  
Latham & Watkins  
Sidley Austin

### **Gold (\$15,000)**

Hunton Andrews Kurth  
McGuireWoods  
Morgan Lewis  
Paul Hastings  
Perkins Coie  
Pfizer Inc.

### **Silver (\$10,000)**

Akin Gump Strauss Hauer &  
Feld

Faegre Drinker Biddle &  
Reath  
HP Inc.  
Orrick  
Skadden, Arps, Slate,  
Meagher & Flom  
Verizon

### **Bronze (\$5,000)**

Cozen O'Connor  
Crowell & Moring  
Dechert  
Hewlett Packard Enterprise  
Intel Corporation  
Katten Muchin Rosenman  
Kilpatrick Townsend  
Linklaters  
Northrop Grumman  
Corporation  
Paul, Weiss, Rifkind,  
Wharton & Garrison LLP

Reed Smith  
The Steptoe Foundation  
White & Case  
Williams & Connolly

### **Copper (\$2,500)**

Ballard Spahr  
Chapman & Cutler  
Hogan Lovells  
Holland & Knight  
K&L Gates  
King & Spalding  
McDermott Will & Emery  
Microsoft Corporation  
Nixon Peabody  
Winston & Strawn

### **Donor (up to \$2,499)**

Buckley  
Davis Wright Tremaine

## Additional Supporters

Aon  
Disabled Veterans National Foundation  
DLA Piper Foundation  
Equal Justice Works Fellowship sponsored by  
Lockheed Martin and Hogan Lovells

Exelon  
May & Stanley Smith Charitable Trust  
Merck & Co., Inc.  
Miller & Chevalier  
Naval Officers' Spouses' Club of Washington



# THANK YOU FOR YOUR LEGAL REPRESENTATION

NVLSP extends its heartfelt appreciation to all of the law firms and corporations that have accepted cases, projects, and attended clinics in 2019. With this pro bono support, NVLSP provided full representation to 428 veterans, and clinic advice services to 196 veterans in 2019. Below we list the names of volunteers who accepted matters in 2019 and provide a summary description of the work done by partnering firms and corporate legal departments.

## **Akin Gump Struss Hauer & Feld: 5 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** *Adrian Palma, Rachel Elsby, Paul Butler, Steven Schulman*

Akin Gump accepted 2 medical retirement cases, 2 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases and 1 case before the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Douglas Badini  
Kathryn Betts  
Paul Butler  
Lisa Garret

Robert Griffin  
Eric Munoz  
Anthony Sierra  
Joseph Szydlo

Matthew Turner  
Jonathan Underwood  
Thomas Yang

## **Amazon: 4 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** *Lloyd Chee, Julie Friar*

Amazon accepted 4 NVLSP discharge upgrade matters in 2019.

Andrew Alberg  
Maura Bahu  
Kris Becker

Elisabeth Davies  
John Donovan  
Shannon Haley

Mike Jefferson  
Meghann Morrill  
Liz Weeks



**Aon: 1 matter**

**LSW Pro Bono Contact:** *Peter Banick, Ruth Miller*

A new NVLSP partner in 2019, Aon accepted 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation case.

Peter Banick

Frank LaVaglia

Ted Novy

**Blank Rome: 9 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** *Kathy Ochroch, Krystal Kane*

A new NVLSP partner in 2019, Blank Rome volunteers accepted 3 medical retirement cases and 1 medical retirement ligation case at the Court of Appeals for Federal Claims. Blank Rome volunteers also accepted 4 Military Sexual Trauma cases and 1 case before the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Matthew Altomare  
Bill Bennett  
Dalila Berry  
George Billinson  
Robyn Burrows  
Rachel Cohn

Harris Diamond  
Anastasia Dodd  
Inbal Garrity  
Ricky Guerra  
Mark Haskell  
Alex Hassid

John Lucian  
Thomas Margiano  
Tony Mingione  
Michael Peskowitz  
Lauren Scarantino  
Evan Zucker

**Chapman and Cutler: 4 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contact:** *Sara Ghadiri*

A new NVLSP partner in 2019, Chapman and Cutler accepted 4 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases.

John Hitt Jr  
Jen Koltse

Kathryn Puls  
Kevin Reckamp

**Covington & Burling: 63 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** *Kelly Voss, Sharmaine Heng, Jill Garcia, Mary Burner, Dia Omasonte*

Covington partnered with NVLSP to obtain the very first class action certified by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, *Godsey v. Wilkie*, resulting in thousands of veterans getting relief for their delayed claims.

Covington staffed two NVLSP clinics during 2019 with Northrop Grumman. These clinics served veterans seeking discharge upgrades and/or medical retirements. The clinics were held at the DC

Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs and EasterSeals in Silver Spring, MD. Covington and Northrop Grumman served 35 individuals at these clinics.

A leading NVLSP partner at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Covington provided representation to 12 veterans in cases at the CAVC. Covington volunteers further accepted 9 discharge upgrade cases for full representation, 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation case, 3 medical retirement cases for litigation at the Court of Federal Claims, and 1 medical retirement case at the Board for Correction of Naval Records. Covington also authored an amicus brief for NVLSP at the Federal Circuit and provided comments on proposed changes to CAVC late filing rules.

Jay Alexander  
Shelby Anderson  
Shara Aranoff  
Isaac Belfer  
Howard Berger  
Ray Biagini  
Benjamin Block  
Simeon Botwinik  
Jeff Bozman  
Frank Broomell  
Brandon Caplan  
Susan Cassidy  
Samantha Clark  
Rebecca Dalton  
James Dean  
Ron Dove  
Uttara Dukkipati  
Tyler Evans  
Jason Fowler  
Scott Freling  
Tim Greszler  
Christopher Hanson

Amy Heath  
Matthew Hegreness  
Krista Hekking  
Jerry Hodgkins  
Elise Holman  
James Hovard  
Sam Howe  
Jeffrey Huberman  
Peter Hutt II  
Tanya Kapoor  
Jad Khazem  
Kevin King  
Joe Kresse  
Jeff Lash  
Diana Lee  
Mel Lewis  
Micaela McMurrough  
Kate Mitchell-Tombras  
Robert Newman  
Weiss Nustraty  
Kathleen Paley  
Matt Phelps

Jadzia Pierce  
Jen Plitsch  
Lala Qadir  
Shae Qian  
Richard Rainey  
Steven Rosenbaum  
Dan Russell  
Shailee Diwanji Sharma  
Clara Shin  
Volodymyr Shkilevych  
Kevin Silk  
Nikki Singh  
Michael Stern  
Einar Stole  
Bob Trainor  
Seth Tucker  
Matthew Verdin  
Colin Watson  
Ben Weksberg  
Alicia Zhang

### **Cozen O'Connor: 31 matters**

#### ***LSW Pro Bono Contact: Melinda deLisle***

Cozen O'Connor is one of NVLSP's leading partners for appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, accepting 17 cases in 2019. Cozen O'Connor further accepted 6 cases involving military sexual trauma, 2 appeals at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, 1 discharge upgrade case, 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation case, 1 case seeking medical retirement benefits, and a case seeking caregiver benefits for a Navy Seal Purple Heart recipient. A volunteer from Cozen also attended a clinic at the San Diego Military & Veterans Resource Center, serving 2 veterans seeking discharge upgrades and military retirements.

Amy Alderfer  
Mark Anderson

Marla Benedek  
Denise Bense

Rob Bowman  
Kris Cherevas

Blake Coblentz  
Kate Conard  
Andrea Cortland  
John Daly  
Amy Doig  
Jason Domark  
Sean Donoghue  
Shauna Ehlert  
Greg Eisenstark  
Gary Gassman  
Jia Gilani

Anne Greene  
Greg Hudson  
Dan Johns  
Robert Lee  
Ann-Marie Luciano  
Aaron Lukas  
Milton Marquis  
Eric McAvey  
Stephen Miller  
Steven Millman  
Armeen Mistry

Mariah Passarelli  
Stephen Pate  
Vincent Pozzuto  
Laura Reinhart  
Molly Rucki  
Jack Slavik  
Matt Smith  
Josh Stein  
Lisa Stern  
Charles Wheeler  
John Wilson

**Crowell & Moring: 3 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Susie Hoffman, Tiana Russell***

Crowell & Moring accepted 2 matters at the Board of Veterans' Appeals and 1 appeal at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Sherrie Armstrong  
David Bodenheimer

David Fischer  
Joe Kim

Skye Mathieson  
Matthew Welling

**Davis Wright Tremaine: 9 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contact: Rachel Brown***

A new NVLSP partner in 2019, Davis Wright Tremaine accepted 7 matters at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, 1 discharge upgrade matter, and 1 research project.

Tim Chou  
Lyra Correa  
Juliana Gerrick  
Jeff Giametta

Brandon Graves  
Adam Greene  
K.C. Halm  
Nancy Libin

Svetlana McManus  
Chanelle Perry  
Alex Reynolds

## **Dechert: 11 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** *Susie Turner, Stephanie Schlatter*

Dechert accepted 4 matters at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, 1 appeal at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, and 3 cases involving Combat-Related Special Compensation. Dechert also assisted NVLSP with drafting comments on 2 proposed VA regulations and with 1 research project.

Brandee Anderson	Monica Gorny	Stewart McQueen
Bedram Bararpour	Susan Grafton	Lucy Medina
Krystyna Blakeslee	Kortni Hadley	Mary Anne Morgan
Maureen Callahan	Ian Hartman	Mansi Seth
Elliott Curzon	Josh Hess	Michael Smith
Phil Garber	Kathleen Hyer	Lindsay Trapp
Sam Gilbert	Christine Isaacs	David Vaughan

## **DLA Piper: 79 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** *Rich Gruenberger, Lisa Dewey, Gianni Minutoli, Margaret Austin, Donna Look*

For many years DLA Piper has been NVLSP's leading partner for Combat-Related Special Compensation cases, accepting 21 cases in 2019, including 3 with Intel and 3 with Nike. In addition, DLA accepted 10 discharge upgrade matters for full representation and 18 discharge upgrade file review matters.

DLA Piper also partnered with Verizon at a clinic with the D.C. Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs, serving 24 veterans seeking discharge upgrades and/or medical retirement. DLA Piper again partnered with Verizon at a clinic with the Prince George's County Office of Veterans Affairs and the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS), serving 6 veterans seeking discharge upgrades.

Kristen Bandura	Tonya Gauff	Carl Poedtke
Charlie Bell	Christopher George	Donovan Powell
Seth Bonneau	Kevin Glenn	Lucas Przymusinski
Karl Buch	Kristy Grace	Mike Sasso
Virginia Callahan	Matthew Gruenberger	Jack Schecter
Amanda Camelotto	Shaked Hoter	Karan Singh
David Clark	Jennifer Kappel	David Stone
Clayton Culler	Megan Kinney	Kim Stouffer
Jennifer Cumming	Brendan Krasinki	Sangwon Sung
Mary DeWeese Jane	Bethany Krysek	Linda Thomas
Mikell Desmond	Donna Look	Michael Tinyk
Adam Dubin	Stephen Matthews	Brian Tribuna
Aurelie Ercoli	Colleen McElroy	Justin Walker
Cameron Fine	Camella McIntosh	John Wei
Amanda Fitzsimmons	Patrick Park	Dana Zelman

### **Eversheds Sutherland: 2 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contact:** *Aileen Bleach*

A new NVLSP partner in 2019, Eversheds Sutherland accepted 2 discharge upgrade matters.

Richard Noland  
John Zerwas

### **Exelon: 9 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contact:** *Jeanne Dworetzky, Jill Flack*

Exelon volunteers staffed a clinic at Fort Belvoir in Virginia with Morgan Lewis serving 9 wounded warriors going through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES).

Bill Edwards	Jill Flack
Matt Segers	Denise Wojcik

### **Faegre Drinker Biddle & Reath: 13 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contact:** *Candace Whitaker*

Faegre Drinker accepted 5 matters at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, 3 matters for veterans who were wrongly discharged for alleged personality disorders, 2 discharge upgrade matters, 2 Military Sexual Trauma matters, and 1 VA claims matter for a Vietnam veteran seeking disability benefits for Agent Orange exposure.

Kayla Britton	Tom Jensen	Daniel Roy
Colleen Conners	Susanne Johnson	Joel Sayres
Marcelo Copat	David Koller	Michelle Soule
Melissa Fontes	Brian Lefort	Emily Steeb
Eric Friedman	Josh Mahoney	Lane Womack
Andy Geier	Carla Martin	Jill Zender
Mike Gustafson	Kate Middleton	Nathaniel Zylstra
Kaitlin Hinkley	Jennifer Miernicki	
Kirstyn Jacobs	Robin Rank	
Raechel Bimmerle Jaffery	Rick Reichstein	

### **Finnegan, Henderson, Farabow, Garrett & Dunner: 2 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** *Elizabeth Ferrill, Doris Johnson Hines*

Finnegan accepted 1 Federal Circuit litigation matter and 1 amicus brief at the Federal Circuit.

Nicholas Doyle	Doris Johnson Hines	Gracie Mills
----------------	---------------------	--------------

### **Gibson Dunn & Crutcher: 1 matter**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** *Katie Marquart, Lauren Tetenbaum*

Gibson Dunn accepted 1 Military Sexual Trauma case.

Amanda First  
Kory Hines

Will Moccia  
Chantalle Schropp

Orin Snyder

### **Hogan Lovells: 16 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** *T. Weymouth Clark, Kaitlyn Golden*

Hogan Lovells and Lockheed Martin sponsored NVLSP's Equal Justice Works Fellow for 2018 to 2020. Hogan staffed a clinic at Fort Belvoir in Virginia serving 8 wounded warriors going through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES). In addition, Hogan Lovells accepted for full representation 7 cases where the veteran is seeking a medical disability retirement and 1 appeal at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Anishiya Abrol  
Andrew Bagnell  
Leigh Barcham  
Joe Cavanaugh  
Brittainy Cavender  
Aaron Crane  
Theodore Essex  
Ari Fridman  
Tony Fuller  
Rupinder Garcha

Michele Harrington  
Allen Hicks  
Tom Hunt  
Shee Shee Jin  
Ariel Keller  
Mary Lancaster  
Steve Levitan  
David Locascio  
Doug Martin  
Laura Martinez

Jimmy McEntee  
Tom McGovern  
Keith O'Doherty  
Nicole Picard  
Tiffany Posil  
Jonathan Stulberg

### **Holland & Hart: 3 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contact:** *Teague Donahey*

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

Teague Donahey

### **Holland & Knight: 7 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contact:** *Gordon Griffin*

Holland & Knight accepted 5 Military Sexual Trauma cases and assisted NVLSP with 2 research projects.

Chris Armstrong  
Mark Davis  
Chris DeLacy  
Jessica Farmer  
Gordon Griffin  
Nick Hasenfus

Anna Hayes  
John Irving  
Dimitri Karakitsos  
Sara Klock  
David Kully  
Kathryn Lehman

Marina O'Brien  
Denis Perlich  
Paul Thompson  
Adrianne Waddell  
Andrew Weinstein

### **HP Inc.: 4 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contact:*** Brad Hartz

HP Inc. accepted 2 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases and 2 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Mercedes Alvarez  
Mike Crowley

Craig Davis  
Brad Hartz

Pam Richards

### **Hunton Andrews Kurth: 17 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contacts:*** Tim McHugh, Kevin Gaunt, Toni Poole

Hunton Andrews Kurth filed litigation in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Virginia when NVLSP had lost all access to published Department of Defense (DoD) decisions due to the agency taking its website offline for 9 months. After the complaint was filed, DoD promptly started restoring decisions to the website. After initially failing to do so, DoD restored the search feature to the website in response to arguments raised in Court.

In addition, Hunton Andrews Kurth staffed a clinic at the DAV Chapter 47 in Petersburg, VA serving 4 veterans seeking discharge upgrades and/or military medical retirement. Hunton accepted 3 cases for full representation for veterans going through the IDES process, 2 military sexual trauma cases, 3 military retirement cases, 2 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases, 2 discharge upgrades, and 1 individual litigation matter at the Court of Federal Claims.

Yaniel Abreu  
Benjamin C. Ackerly  
Emily Benedict  
Jason Brown  
Terence G. Connor  
Michael Fee  
Eric N. Fidel

Charles A. Gall  
Kevin E. Gaunt  
Mark S. Hedberg  
Sarah Ingles  
Jamie Zysk Isani  
Christy E. Kiely  
J. Pierce Lamberson

Austin P. Maloney  
Matthew R. McGuire  
Timothy L. McHugh  
George P. Sibley III  
Naomi R. Sosner  
Jessica N. Vara  
Angie Yearick



### **Jones Day: 25 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contacts:*** Miguel Eaton, Amy Zywicki

Jones Day staffed a clinic at the San Diego Military & Veterans Resource Center serving 23 veterans seeking discharge upgrades and military retirements. Jones Day accepted 2 appeals at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Jordan Arakawa  
John Cheretis

Miguel Eaton  
Ed Howell

Jihong Lou  
Ryan Thomas

### **K&L Gates: 8 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contact:*** Brian Koosed

K&L Gates accepted 7 cases at the Board of Veterans' Appeals and 1 discharge upgrade case.

Corey Bieber  
Laura Gregory  
Michael Hart-Slaterry

Jannay Johnson  
Jenna Lorence  
Zachary Mason

Chelsie Rimel  
Shane Shannon

### **Katten Muchin Rosenman: 5 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contact:*** Julia Schmidt

Katten Muchin Rosenman accepted 5 cases at the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Claudia Callaway  
Ryan Gofus

Jerry Hall  
Sarah Ma

Bill Pericak  
Shannon Smith

### **Kilpatrick Townsend & Stockton: 2 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contacts:*** Todd Castleton

Kilpatrick Townsend accepted 2 medical retirement cases.

Alex Bullock  
Todd Castleton  
Allison Gaul

Alex Harrison  
Kerry Hartman  
Sam Hayim

Jim Maune  
Akkad Moussa  
Eddie Wang

## **King & Spalding: 7 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** *Josh Toll, Larry Slovensky*

King & Spalding accepted 6 cases before the Board of Veterans' Appeals and 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation case.

Debi Anderson  
Emily Hutson  
Jason Keehfus  
Jeannine Novak

Alex Panos  
Barbara Ritzert  
Russ Ryan  
Joseph Sherman

Larry Slovensky  
Matt Weybrecht  
Andrew Whittaker

## **Kirkland & Ellis: 18 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** *Ruchi Jain, Elise Tincher, Jackie Haberfeld*

A leading NVLSP partner at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Kirkland accepted 11 appeals at the CAVC and 1 case at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Kirkland accepted 5 Military Sexual Trauma cases and 1 discharge upgrade case for a military sexual trauma survivor.

Carolyn Aiken  
Winn Allen  
Greg Arovas  
Artin Au-Yeung – Former Staff  
Tyler Bartholome  
Benjamin Behrendt  
Katherine Bryan  
Tyler Burgess  
Alexandra Caritis  
Jon Carter  
Michael Chiswick-Patterson  
Reid Coleman – Former Staff  
Mike D'Andrea  
Susan Davies  
Richard Diggs – Former Associate  
Steven Dirks  
Katherine Epstein  
Kristen Farnsworth  
Sam Fitzpatrick – Former Associate

Betlehem Zewge Gedlu  
Mitchelle Gilburn  
Stefanie Gitler  
Katrina Gonzales  
Brian Greene  
Eric Hayes  
Kristen Higareda – Former Staff  
Karam Hijji – Former Associate  
Liz Holmes – Former Staff  
Adam Holzschuh  
Victoria Huang – Former Staff  
Erin Johnston  
Helena Kiepura  
William Lane  
Marc Lipscomb  
Momo Liu  
James Lomeo  
Emily Long  
Christopher Marcus

Sean McEldowney  
Matt McIntee  
Amanda Milhet  
Mary Miller – Former Associate  
Celina Moo-Penn  
Eric Mossor  
Bobby Olsen – Former Associate  
Mike Pearson  
Mary Pizzala  
Karthik Ravishankar  
Brandon Remington  
Alex Rose  
Jacob Ruby  
Douglas Ryder  
Leslie Schmidt  
Alex Shofe  
Levi Stoneking  
David Towarnicky

## **Latham & Watkins: 66 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contacts:*** *Spencer Chatellier, Allen Gardner, Taiga Takahashi, Justin Kirschner*

Latham & Watkins staffed a clinic in Los Angeles, CA serving 21 veterans seeking discharge upgrades. Latham also staffed a clinic at the San Diego Military & Veterans Resource Center serving 22 veterans seeking discharge upgrades and military retirements.

A leading NVLSP partner for medical retirement, Latham provided full representation to 4 service members going through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System process, accepted 9 cases for full representation for veterans seeking review of the denial of medical retirement at the Board for Correction of Military Records or Physical Disability Board of Review, and 2 for appeal to the Court of Federal Claims. Latham further accepted 4 discharge upgrade cases and 4 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases.

Robert Allen  
Alan Avery  
William Baker  
Jeffrey Bashara  
Matt Baumann  
Amanda Betsch  
Chris Campbell  
Spencer Chatellier  
Dan Chiafair  
Cynthia Chiu  
Emma Cohen  
Andrew Dane  
Alan Devlin  
Achraf Farraj  
Eugene Elrod  
Kelsey Ferguson  
Brett Frazer  
Allen Gardner  
Diane Ghrist  
Joseph Grochowski  
Charlie Guinn

Brendan Haberle  
Paul Hunt  
Samantha Jackson  
Kehaulani Jai  
Rakin Johnson  
Erin Brown Jones  
Jennifer Koh  
Craig Kornreich  
Remy Lamons  
Michelle Lee  
Nathanial McPherson  
John Miller  
Neelam Mohammed  
Matthew Moore  
Ben Naftalis  
Sarah Nappi  
Jane Olin-Ammentorp  
Betty Pang  
Drew Parkes  
Ken Parsigian  
Elizabeth Prewitt

Kumar Ravula  
Bert Reiser  
Tulika Sinha  
Emma Skelton  
Ted Sonnenschein  
Sean Stanton  
Michael Sullivan  
Jane Summers  
Lauren Talerman  
Allison Turner  
Nicole Valco  
Holly Victorson  
Ann Marie Wahls  
Jacob Walsh  
Zachary Williams  
Marc Williamson  
John Wilson  
Thomas Yeh  
Ryan Zumwalt

## **Linklaters: 5 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contacts:*** *Karen Carbonell*

Linklaters accepted 4 discharge upgrade cases and 1 medical retirement case.

Sterling Darling  
Eric Hilmo

Kyara Mathias  
Nandy Millette

Mary Ellen Stanley  
Elizabeth Yazgi

### **McDermott Will & Emery: 3 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contacts:*** Marshall Jackson, Jr., Sam Neel, Elizabeth Lewis, Michael Weaver

McDermott Will & Emery accepted 3 medical retirement cases.

Khelin Nicole Aiken	Marshall Jackson Jr.	David Ransom
Rebecca Harker Duttry	Gugan Kaur	Joshua Rogaczewski
Jeremy Earl	Stefan Meisner	Mac Routh
Elizabeth Erickson	Sam Neel	Steven Schnell

### **McGuireWoods: 46 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contacts:*** John Thompson, Drew Austria, Angie Zimmern

A new NVLSP partner in 2019, McGuireWoods staffed two clinics. McGuireWoods volunteers served 20 veterans seeking discharge upgrades, military retirements, or Combat-Related Special Compensation at the Fayetteville Vet Center in Fayetteville, NC. McGuireWoods volunteers also staffed a clinic serving 13 veterans going through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES) for the United States Special Operations Command (USSOCOM) Warrior Care Coalition Members stationed in and around Joint Base Little Creek-Fort Story in Virginia Beach, Virginia. McGuireWoods accepted 3 discharge upgrade cases for full representation, 2 military sexual trauma cases, 7 cases before the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and 1 IDES case.

Carolyn Appel	Steve Hamilton	Steve Peretz
Drew Austria	Craig Haughton	Nathan R. Pittman
Stephanie Bentley	Sarah K. Hawley	Jessica L. Riley
Tom DeSplinter	Kristen Kirby	John Thompson
Joan S. Dinsmore	Jonathan Marx	Elizabeth Timmermans
Joe Florczak	Robert McFarland	Justine Welch
Krystal Gollogly	Carrie Mobley	Joe Wilson
Sonna J. Greene	Jeanne Noonan	Wendy P. Wright
Jill Crawley Griset	Shreya Patel	

### **Merck: 6 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contacts:*** Christine Kanellidis, Barry McCoy

Merck accepted 4 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases and partnered with Reed Smith on 2 medical retirement cases.

Anna Cocuzzo  
Blair Shaw  
David King  
Julie Lake  
Kathy Lally

Matthew Leff  
Barry McCoy  
Eric Meade  
Kelly Panno  
Kelly Sue Reinford

Michael Reagan  
Stephanie Ricardo  
Tisch Walker  
Irene Burke Zimmerman

**Microsoft: 6 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contact:** *Bill Hayden*

Microsoft accepted 6 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases.

Jill Ballo  
Juliana Chen  
Andrew Gagnon  
Jorge Garcia

Bill Hayden  
Laura Lemire  
Michael Mitchell  
Collin Smith

Reese Wegley  
Jenna Wolfe

**Miller & Chevalier: 4 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contact:** *Kathleen Wach*

Miller Chevalier accepted 3 cases for veterans seeking assistance with a tax refund for improperly taxed disability severance payments and 1 case for a veteran seeking disability benefits due to Agent Orange exposure.

Tony Provenzano  
Abi Stokes

Jason Workmaster  
Alex Zakupowsky

**Morgan, Lewis & Bockius: 40 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** *Rachel Strong, Namita Mani, Andrea Fitantes, Carol Field*

Morgan Lewis staffed two NVLSP clinics during 2019: one with Exelon at Fort Belvoir in Virginia serving 9 wounded warriors going through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System (IDES), and one at the Morgan Lewis offices in Washington, DC serving 8 veterans seeking discharge upgrades.

A leading NVLSP partner for discharge upgrades, Morgan Lewis accepted 14 discharge upgrade cases for full representation, 3 personality disorder discharge upgrades, 3 cases before the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation case.

Harlyn Bohensky  
Calvin Brien  
Melissa Brown  
Clay Carlton

Giovanna Cinelli  
Scott Clausen  
Lindsay Craft  
Beverly Dale

Tom Davis  
Althea Day  
Lauren Docktor  
Sagiv Edelman

Grant Eskelsen  
Carol Field  
Bob Gaybrick  
Rolando Gonzalez  
Asa Herald  
Bob Hibbert  
Hai Huang  
Lindsay Jackson  
Ethan Johnson  
Scott Karchmer  
Caitlin Kelley  
Daniel Kleinman

Martha Leibell  
Tim Levin  
David Marston  
John Matthews  
Tim Matthews  
Chrishon McManus  
Scott Memmott  
Raul Mendoza  
Greg Mottla  
Patrick Pennella  
Anthony Reynolds  
Andy Ruskin

Philip Sarid  
Al Shay  
Dan Skees  
Scott Stempel  
Alison Tanchyk  
Kate Taylor  
Charles Thebaud Jr.  
Kalpesh Upadhye  
Linda Way-Smith  
Pam Wu  
David Zylka

### **Nixon Peabody: 7 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contact: Brian Donnelly***

Nixon Peabody accepted 4 appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals and 3 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases.

Chris Azuoma  
Brian Donnelly  
William Evans

Bonnie Glatzer  
Jenny Holmes  
James Ingram

Martha Medina  
Matthew Richards

### **Northrop Grumman: 35 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Dianne Coombs, Melissa Cox, Jill Palmer***

Northrop Grumman staffed two NVLSP clinics during 2019 with Covington & Burling. These clinics served veterans seeking discharge upgrades and/or medical retirements. The clinics were held at the DC Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs and EasterSeals in Silver Spring, MD. Northrop Grumman and Covington served 35 individuals at these clinics.

Bart Barre  
Dianne Coombs  
Brooke Horiuchi

Maureen Kelly  
Jillian Laughna  
Lori Morrison

Lynn Wise

### **Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe: 5 matters**

***LSW Pro Bono Contact: Rene Kathawala***

Orrick filed class action litigation in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia on behalf of veterans whose applications for military medical retirement and discharge upgrades at the

Boards for Corrections of Military Records were not decided in the required period of 18 months. In addition, Orrick accepted 3 appeals at the Board of Veterans' Appeals and 1 research project.

Andrew Bethune  
Mel Bostwick  
Michael Buchanan  
Rabi David

Tricia Eichar  
Jay Jurata  
Rene Kathawala  
Matt LaBrie

Shane McCammon  
Eric Shumsky  
Frank Zalom

### **Paul Hastings: 9 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** Sarah Besnoff, Josh Christensen, Brenda Freed, Stephen Kinnaird, Renata Parras

Paul Hastings filed a Petition in the Federal Circuit for review of a final VA rule, accepted 3 matters at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, 2 matters appealing Combat-Related Special Compensation denials to the Board for Correction of Military Records, 1 matter seeking Traumatic Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance benefits, and 2 research projects.

Chetan Bansal  
Elizabeth Bernard  
Sarah Besnoff  
Christine Cedar  
Mark Consilvio  
Lindsey Dieselman  
Jason Heidemann  
Blair Jacobs

Arvind Jairam  
Joanne Joseph  
Steve Kinnaird  
Emily Lee  
Patricia Liverpool  
William McCue  
Joe Palys  
Caroline Roberts

Gabby Barreto Scanlon  
Alex Schulman  
Rob Silvers  
Allan Soobert  
Daren Stanaway  
Andrew Sterritt  
Sara Pruzin Turk

### **Paul, Weiss, Rifkind, Wharton & Garrison: 14 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** Emily Donohoe, BJ Jensen, Diana Roldan-McGinley

Paul, Weiss hosted a discharge upgrade clinic in their New York City office, serving 4 veterans seeking discharge upgrades. Paul, Weiss also accepted 10 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Edward Ackerman  
Lauraine Avallone  
Brent Beck  
Katerina Belov  
Michael Bernfeld  
Farrah Berse  
Ernest Borghese  
Adrian Moreira da Silva-  
Burke  
Bertie Cheng

Chioma Chikwelugo  
Hilary Christian  
David Clements  
Emily Compton  
Guity Deyhimy  
Melinda Feher  
Joseph Finneran  
Andrew Forman  
Lisa Gluckman  
Robert Hacker

Zain Haq  
Carol Hobson  
Lisa Johnson  
Gordon Macleod  
Jacqueline Malzone  
Bruce Moses  
Ocasha Musah  
Lisa Rindler  
Victor Rios  
Rebecca Rohtstein



Kenya Stevens  
Alison Stone  
Michael Strocko

Margaret Sun  
Benjamin Symons  
Michele Varano

Eliana Wasser  
Li Zhuang

### **Perkins Coie: 35 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** *Lindsay Allen, Alix Bromer, Leah Medway, Alycia Delmore, Julie LaEace*

Perkins Coie accepted 8 cases involving Combat-Related Special Compensation, 3 discharge upgrade cases, 1 discharge upgrade case for a Military Sexual Trauma survivor, and a medical retirement litigation case at the Court of Appeals for Federal Claims. A volunteer from Perkins also attended a clinic at the San Diego Military & Veterans Resource Center, serving 22 veterans seeking discharge upgrades and military retirements.

Tom Ahmadifar  
Tim Andree  
Michael Bleicher  
Christina Bonanni  
Randy Bridgeman  
Alex Canizares  
Brenna Duncan  
Aimee Ford

Julia Fox  
Jyoti Jasrasaria  
Brandon Johnson  
Nathan Kelley  
Janis Kestenbaum  
Adam Marchuk  
Lou Mejia  
Zachary Newkirk

Rocio Palomo  
Erica Smith  
Jacob Speckhard  
Brian Svoboda  
Fabricio Vayra  
Andrew Villier  
Michael Woolslayer

### **PROCEPT BioRobotics: 1 matter**

**LSW Pro Bono Contact:** *Jonathan Stone*

A new NVLSP partner in 2019, PROCEPT BioRobotics accepted 1 military medical retirement case.

Jonathan Stone

### **Reed Smith: 5 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contact:** *Chris Walters*

Reed Smith accepted 4 military medical retirement cases, 2 of those cases with Merck. Reed Smith also accepted 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation case.

Ryan Blake  
Steve Bobo  
Philip Danziger  
David de Jesus  
Michael Falk  
Melissa Geist

Devin Griffin  
Kevin Hart  
Meredith Hartley  
James Holston  
Charles Hyun  
William Kirkwood

Elizabeth Leavy  
Dionna Litvin  
Julia Lopez  
Alice Marshall  
Kristin Parker  
Craig Tanner

## **Shearman & Sterling: 4 matters**

### ***LSW Pro Bono Contact: Denise Karamian***

A newly returning NVLSP partner in 2019, Shearman & Sterling volunteers accepted 3 discharge upgrade matters and 1 discharge upgrade matter for a survivor of Military Sexual Trauma.

Reuben Dacher-Shapiro  
Michael Holt  
Sam Leander

Hernán Ortiz  
Joseph Samuels  
Adam Schwartz

Ashley Shan  
Chris White  
Nathan Wood

## **Sidley Austin: 39 matters**

### ***LSW Pro Bono Contacts: Mark Herzog, Emily Wexler***

Sidley is NVLSP's partner in the *Wolfe v. Wilkie* class action before the CAVC. Sidley and NVLSP argued that the VA's 2018 reimbursement regulation violates the Emergency Care Fairness Act of 2010 (ECFA) that requires VA to reimburse veterans for the emergency medical expenses they incur at non-VA facilities that are not covered by the veteran's private insurance. The CAVC certified the case as a class action and ordered the VA to remedy its unlawful regulation by reimbursing veterans for all of their past and future out-of-pocket emergency medical expenses not covered by the veteran's private insurance other than copayments. The VA is appealing the CAVC decision to the Federal Circuit.

Additionally, Sidley is a leading NVLSP partner at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and other individual full representation matters. Sidley accepted 9 appeals at the CAVC and 3 matters at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. Sidley further accepted 9 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases, 5 discharge upgrade cases, 1 military sexual trauma case, 2 medical retirement cases, and 7 disability severance tax matters. Additionally, Sidley accepted a matter appealing the denial of medical retirement benefits to DC District Court and assisted NVLSP with an amicus brief to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

Australia Alba  
Andres Barajas  
James Bieke  
Michael Borden  
Scott Border  
Chris Childers  
Brian Cook  
Drew Domina  
Alex Enion  
Josh Fougere  
Joseph Gottlieb  
Devin Grabarek  
Jason Greenhut  
Thomas Guzman

Ellen Hunter  
Lauren Keane  
Ryan Kelly  
Robert Kreitman  
David Kronenberg  
John Levi  
Kayleigh McNelis  
Christin Sullivan Miller  
Michael Myones  
Inn-Young Park  
Jessalyn Pe  
Matt Reardon  
Penny Reid  
Aaron Rigby

Viktoriya Rusanova  
Alyssa Russell  
Cedric Seley  
Leslie Slaughter  
Rachelle Soderstrom  
Katie Sreenan  
Angelo Suouzzi  
Robert Velevis  
Nicholas Willingham  
John Wilson  
Corey Winer  
Irene Yang  
Richard Young

## **Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom: 5 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** Anna Frances Coleman, Jim Perry, Don Salzman

Volunteer attorneys from Skadden accepted 3 discharge upgrade cases and 2 cases seeking assistance with a tax refund for improperly taxed disability severance payments.

Marc-Anthony Delgado  
Mitch Ettinger  
Erin Girbach  
Gaga Gondwe

Jim Perry  
Jared Petermeyer  
Scott Rabinowitz  
Jen Spaziano

Laura Sunday  
David Wagener  
Jonathon Wilson

## **Steptoe & Johnson: 6 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** Paul Lee, Harmony Jones

Steptoe & Johnson accepted 4 cases at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, 1 case for a veteran seeking assistance with a tax refund for improperly taxed disability severance payments, and 1 Combat-Related Special Compensation case.

Lauren Azebu  
Kelly Champ  
Shawn Davisson  
Kelly Eberspecher  
Alexandra Galdos

Dane Jaques  
Greg Kidder  
Adriana Campos-Korn  
Rebecca Lipe  
Mike Navarre

Katy Shin  
Derek Smith

## **Verizon**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** Alycia Guichard, Susan Schachman, Ashley Morgan

Verizon partnered with DLA Piper at a clinic with the D.C. Mayor's Office of Veterans Affairs, serving 24 veterans seeking discharge upgrades and/or medical retirement. Verizon again partnered with DLA Piper at a clinic with the Prince George's County Office of Veterans Affairs and the National Association for Black Veterans (NABVETS), serving 6 veterans seeking discharge upgrades. Verizon also accepted 5 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases.

John Cmelak  
Benjamin Kacher  
Libby Kellerman

Bob Lloyd  
Jeff Novak  
Karan Singh

Michael Tinyk  
Tara O'Brien Wu  
Kimberly Wilson

### **VMware: 20 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contact:** *Stephanie Nelson*

A new NVLSP partner in 2019, VMware accepted 20 discharge upgrade file review matters.

Audrey Borisov  
Ali Emadi  
Nicola Macdonald  
Elaine Manzanilla

Kate McMenamy  
Karen Moir  
Stephanie Nelson  
Roy Nolasco

Gwen Romack  
CJ Teasley

### **White & Case: 19 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contacts:** *Matt Frutig, Anna Strumpel*

A leading partner at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, White & Case accepted 19 matters at BVA, partnering with Nestlé Waters North America on one of those matters.

Charlie Broll (Nestlé  
Waters North America)  
Christopher Carroll  
Christine DeVito  
Matt Drossos  
Marissa Florio  
Raj Gandesha  
Andrew Hammond  
Farhad Jalinous  
Douglas Jasinski

Matt Kabak  
Ting-Ting Kao  
Jonathan Klaren  
Jordan Kobb  
Shannon Lane  
Claire Leonard  
Regina Loureiro  
Lina Mesa  
Sean Murray  
Anta Plowden

Petr Polasek  
Aaron Potter  
John Reiss  
Edward So  
Gilles Teerlinck  
Navy Thompson  
Jacob Trumm  
Nick Wilson

### **Williams & Connolly: 3 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contact:** *Liam Montgomery*

Williams & Connolly accepted 1 appeal at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and 2 discharge upgrade cases.

Grey Callahan  
Samuel Ford

Liam Montgomery  
Katherine Petti

Haley Wasserman

### **WilmerHale: 16 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contact:** *Chris Herrling, Leigh Hillebrand*

A leading NVLSP partner at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, WilmerHale accepted 8 appeals at the CAVC and 1 case at the Board of Veterans' Appeals. WilmerHale also accepted 7 Combat-Related Special Compensation cases, one of which was appealed to the Board for Corrections of Military Records.

Samantha Becker  
John Butts  
Ross Cohen  
Jeffrey Coleman  
Erica Crosland  
Chris Davies  
Rachel Dober  
Amy Doberman  
Aaron Friedman  
Cyrus Garmestani  
Mike Heyison  
Steven Horn

Erin Ladd  
Alexandra Levine  
Joseph Levy  
Amy Lishinski  
Adam McCall  
Martin McCormack  
Bill McElwain  
Bill McLucas  
Elizabeth Mitchell  
Jeremy Moorehouse  
Michael Mugmon  
Rian Rossetti

Cristina Salcedo  
Chelsea Shaffer  
Sierra Shear  
Kellie Shlifer  
Thomas Sprankling  
Emily Stark  
Mendocino Steele  
Joshua Stern  
Erik Swabb  
Matt Vigeant  
Josh Vittor  
Amy Wigmore

### **Winston & Strawn: 5 matters**

**LSW Pro Bono Contact:** *Greg McConnell*

Winston & Strawn accepted 3 cases at the Board of Veterans' Appeals, 1 case going through the Integrated Disability Evaluation System process, and 1 discharge upgrade case.

Matt Campbell  
Patrick Doerr

Rich McCarty  
Tom Mills

Eric Schlichter  
Ray Wuslich

## THANK YOU TO OUR CLINIC PARTNERS

In 2019, NVLSP pro bono volunteers met with 196 veterans and service members to provide brief services and advice and/or to assist them in applying to NVLSP for complete representation. We express our gratitude to the organizations that partnered with NVLSP in arranging, hosting, advertising and scheduling clinics.

Community Care Unit  
WTB-Fort Belvoir, VA

Community Veteran  
Justice Project, Los  
Angeles, CA

DAV Chapter 47,  
Petersburg, VA

D.C. Mayor's Office of  
Veterans Affairs

Easterseals, Steven A.  
Cohen Military Family  
Clinic, Silver Spring, MD

Fayetteville Vet Center,  
NC

NABVETS (National  
Association of Black  
Veterans) Inc.

Prince George's County  
Office of Veterans Affairs,  
MD

San Diego Health &  
Human Services Agency,  
Office of Military &  
Veteran Affairs

United States Special  
Operations Command  
Warrior Care Coalition,  
Joint Base Little Creek-  
Fort Story Virginia Beach,  
Virginia

# NVLSP STAFF

## EXECUTIVE TEAM

**Evelyn Anderson**

*Chief Financial Officer*

**Rochelle Bobroff**

*Pro Bono Director*

**Patty Briotta**

*Director of Communications*

**Ana Reyes**

*Director of Development*

**Richard Spataro**

*Director of Training and Publications*

**Bart Stichman**

*Executive Director*

**Stacy Tromble**

*Director of Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Litigation*

**Paul Wright**

*Deputy Executive Director*

## STAFF

**Ronald Abrams**

*Special Counsel*

**Adrian Arias**

*Accountant*

**Amy Borgersen**

*Appellate Attorney*

**George Burtsev**

*Office Manager*

**Helen Chong**

*Training Coordinator*

**Nathan Cohen**

*Development Associate*

**Emily Woodward Deutsch**

*Appellate Attorney*

**Katherine Ebbesson**

*Appellate Attorney*

**Mary Edokpayi**

*Staff Attorney*

**Solveig Frasch**

*Staff Attorney*

**Karen Galla**

*Special Counsel*

**Christine Cote Hill**

*Special Counsel*

**Rosalee Hoffman**

*Appellate Attorney*

**Alexis Ivory**

*Staff Attorney*

**Ann Kenna**

*Staff Attorney*

**Esther Leibfarth**

*Senior Staff Attorney*

**Sara Mabe**

*Intake Specialist*

**Katherine Mann**

*Development Manager*

**Michael Marquet**

*Case Management Attorney*

**Kenneth Meador**

*Appellate Attorney*

**Erin Mee**

*Pro Bono Coordinating Attorney*

**Caitlin M. Milo**

*Appellate Attorney*

**Byron Moore**

*Appellate Attorney*

**Taryn Moyer**

*Intake Specialist*

**Christopher Murray**

*Senior Appellate Attorney*

**Angela Nedd**

*Executive Assistant & Paralegal*

**Nnamdi Okoli**

*Staff Attorney*

**Kimberly R. Parke**

*Senior Appellate Attorney*

**Kelly A. Parker**

*Staff Attorney*

**Dorrie Popovski**

*Paralegal*

**Kristin Smith**

*Staff Attorney*

**David Sonenshine**

*Senior Staff Attorney*

**Carlie Steiner**

*Appellate Attorney*

**Awa Sowe**

*Staff Attorney*

**Monica Toeh**

*Staff Accountant/Network Support*

**Christopher M. Toms**

*Appellate Attorney*

**Alie Venuti**

*Staff Attorney*

**Tekey Wallace**

*Staff Attorney*



**NVLSP**  
NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

**1600 K STREET NW, WASHINGTON DC 20006**  
**202-265-8305 | FAX 202-265-8305 | EMAIL [INFO@NVLSP.ORG](mailto:INFO@NVLSP.ORG)**

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

