



NVLSP

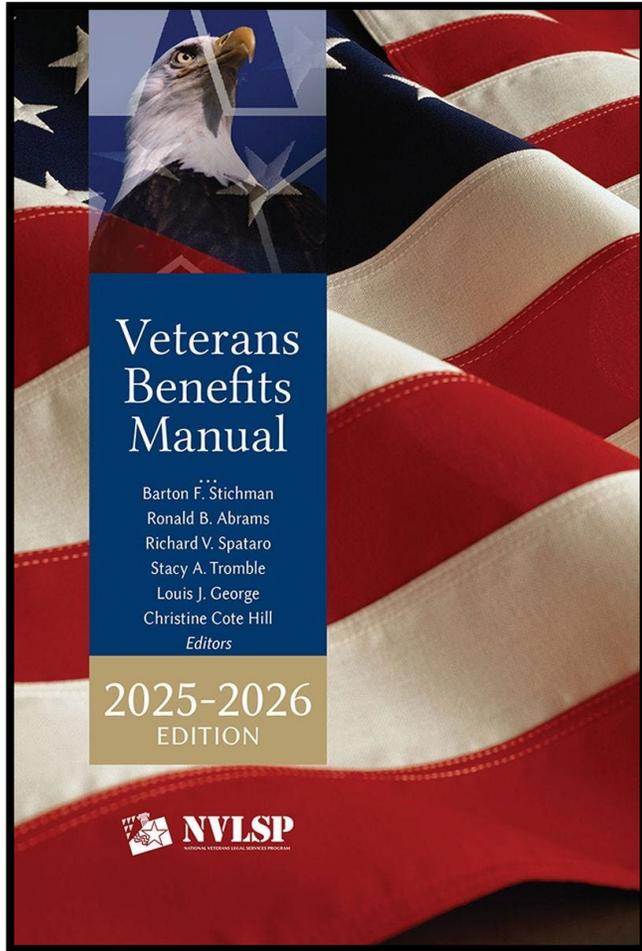
NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

Challenging Life of a VSO



- Very Challenging Job – **Practice of Veterans Law**
 - Claims for: Disability Compensation, Pensions, DIC, Caregiver Benefits, Toxic Exposures, VA Medical Negligence, Health Benefits, Death Benefits
 - Confusing Issues – SMC, TDIU, Effective Dates, Adequacy of C&P Exams
 - Appeals to the VA Regional Office, Board of Veterans' Appeals
 - Two Appeals Systems: Legacy and Appeals Modernization Act (AMA)
 - Difficult Evidentiary Issues - Interplay between medical evidence and legal standards
 - Frequently changing laws, regulations, and court opinions – ESPECIALLY NOW!
 - Clients can be difficult – **VSOs need social worker skills**
 - Many distrust the system / Resource Challenged / Frustrated / Fragile / Homeless / PTS / MST / Surviving Spouses / Suicidal
 - Frequent Constituent Inquiries
 - **VSOs must become Subject Matter Experts in many areas**

Challenging Life of a VSO



2000+ pages
Index – 100+ pages alone

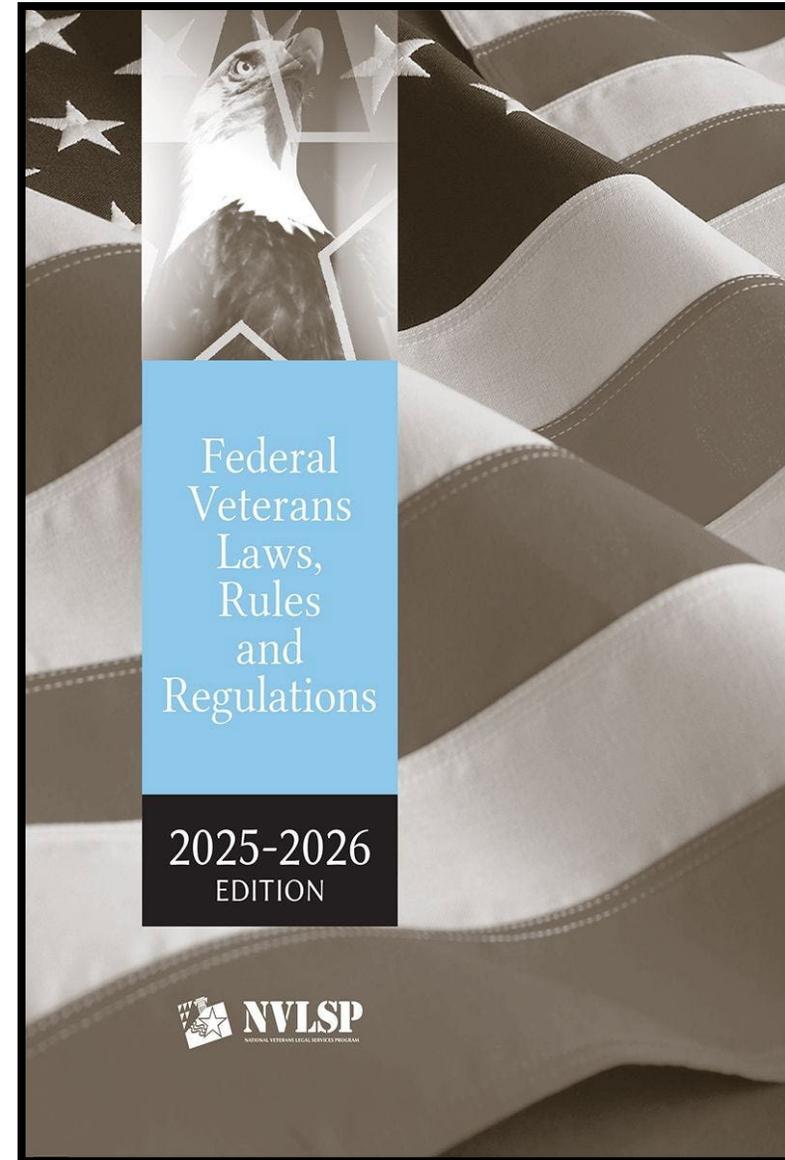
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Challenging Life of a VSO



**Plus...
2400 Pages
of Laws and
Regulations**

**Not Including the
VA's Online Manual
(M21-1)**



So, How Do We Help You, Your Team, and Your Veteran Community?



Partnerships with County & State VSOs...Like You!





National VSOs



We Are Your Force Multiplier



- Nonprofit Veterans Law Firm - 501 (c) (3) - founded in 1981
- 40+ State DVA and VSO Partnerships
- Six ways we impact the veteran community:
 1. No cost assistance with appeals to the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims;
 2. No cost assistance on BVA remands from the CAVC;
 3. Expert advice through our no cost VSO Liaison Program;
 4. No cost discharge upgrade assistance through Lawyers Serving Warriors;
 5. No cost impact litigation and advocacy on behalf of our veteran community; and
 6. High quality training and publications (no cost / at cost)

CAVC Appeals



- No-cost expert representation before the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC)
 - Automatic review of BVA decisions to find error
 - Offer our no-cost representation to your veterans
 - Negotiate with the VA Office of General Counsel
 - Submit briefs /Oral argument / Settlement
 - Closing Letters
 - POA always stays with ODVA
 - **All awarded benefits go to the veteran**
 - **NVLSP does not charge the veteran – EVER – AT ANY STAGE OF APPEAL!**



CAVC Appeals - CY25



- We reviewed 3.5+ million pages of claims and appeals records for our state agencies and VSO partners
- Represented about 1200 Veterans in CY25
 - ~75% resulted in an initial settlement with VA/OGC (JMR)
 - ~95% of all cases NVLSP identified an error were settled by VA/OGC at some stage
 - **99%+ overall success rate**
- Cases before the Federal Circuit
- SMC(T) grant of nearly \$650K – **NO COST**



BVA Remands



- We assisted your teams represent veterans on remand from the CAVC to the Board of Veterans Appeals
 - Closing Letters
 - VSO Liaison / Mentorship
 - **No Cost** in-house attorneys & pro bono partners represent veterans on remand
- Veterans received over **\$50M in retro payments**
 - Our legal fees = ZERO
 - For profit legal fees = \$10M+ (33.3% = expenses)



Subject Matter Expertise

VSO Liaison



- **No cost** expert advice and assistance to partners who wish to consult on an individual case or on broader veterans' law issues
 - For Service Officers (**not your veterans!**)
 - VSOliaison@nvlsp.org
- Experienced attorneys with vast VA, military, federal, state, and veterans law experience



Subject Matter Expertise

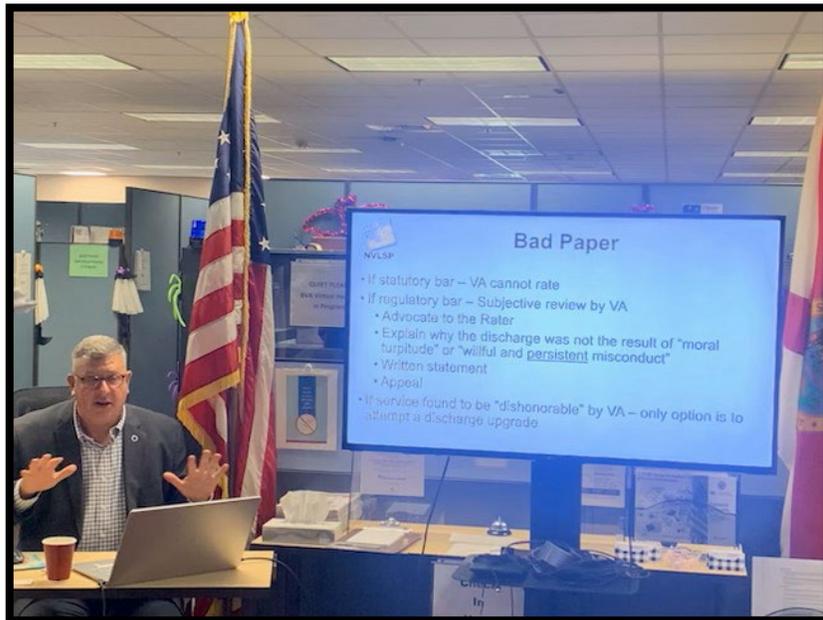


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VSO Liaison - CY25

- Consulted with service officers from 30+ partner states, as well as counties and national VSOs
- Common Issues:
 - BVA hearing arguments/strategy, debt challenges, CUE claims, 1151 claims, inadequate medical exams, BVA failure to address favorable evidence, special monthly compensation, survivor cases, discharge upgrades, incarcerated veterans, rating reductions/severance, etc.
- Visited 15 partner states in 2025 – seminars, training, visits
- 2026 – OK, SC, OH, **MI**, CO, OR, MO, IL, FL, IA, IN, RI, TX, TN, NY, AZ, MN, KS, NC, VA, GA, MA ... more...

Appeals Seminars – 2025



Lawyers Serving Warriors



- In-house experts mentor dozens of law firms and corporate general counsel to provide *pro bono* legal assistance to the veteran community
- Discharge Upgrades / Military Medical Retirement / Combat Related Special Compensation (CRSC) claims and appeals / BVA Remands from the CAVC
- Online Intake Form / Notify VSO Liaison
- **In 2024 alone:**
 - **105,700 donated *pro bono* hours!**
 - **\$94M in *pro bono* assistance to veterans!**
 - **25 discharge upgrade clinics throughout the U.S.**



Impact Litigation & Advocacy

- Individual client representation – no cost
- Class action representation – no cost
 - Agent Orange Presumptives – *Nehmer* (\$7.2B+ in benefits paid)
 - Military Medical Retirement – *Doyon*
 - Emergency Medical Care Reimbursements - *Wolfe*
 - Caregiver Benefits – *Beaudette*
 - CRSC - *Soto*
- Policy consultation and testimony



Advocacy



- **State Claims Sharks Legislation**

- Consulted with many states on introduced legislation to address growing “claims sharks” issue



- **Family Caregiver Assistance Program**

- NVLSP represents veterans and caregivers at no cost on appeal to VHA and BVA



- **Burn Pit Claims Assistance Program**

- NVLSP represents veterans at all stages of claims and appeals at no cost
- Focus is on those previously denied under the PACT Act



Expert Training

- All levels of training
 - Accreditation and comprehensive basic training
 - Advanced training for experienced VSOs and attorneys
 - Continuing Legal Education (CLE)
 - Train the Trainer
- Appropriate for national, state, and county veterans service officers, Veteran Service Organization staff, and attorneys
- Multiple Formats:
 - In-person training
 - Live virtual training / webinars
 - On-demand online webinars
- <https://productsbynvlsp.org/>





Sample of Webinars



- Recent Court Decisions Veterans Advocates Need to Know About
- The Battle of the Medical Experts
- Ensuring the VA Properly Evaluates Joint Disabilities
- VA Benefits Based on National Guard and Reserve Service
- Assisting Survivors with Claims for VA Benefits Associated with Military Sexual Trauma
- Changes to VA's Character of Discharge Regulation
- Non-Service-Connected Disability Pension
- Effective Communication with Veterans to Build Better VA Claims
- VA Benefits for Gulf War Illness and Diseases Caused by Burn Pits
- Maximizing VA Benefits for Progressive Neurological Disorders

Expert Training

- We've trained...
 - The American Legion
 - National Association of County Veterans Service Officers
 - Vietnam Veterans of America
 - Veterans of Foreign Wars
 - AMVETS
 - Wounded Warrior Project
 - Military Order of the Purple Heart
 - Veteran Consortium Pro Bono Program
 - The Legal Services Corporation
 - The National Legal Aid and Defenders Association
 - NAACP
 - National Associate of State Director of Veterans Affairs
 - State Bar Associations
 - **County VSOs – You!**
 - **Multiple State DVA Partners – You!**



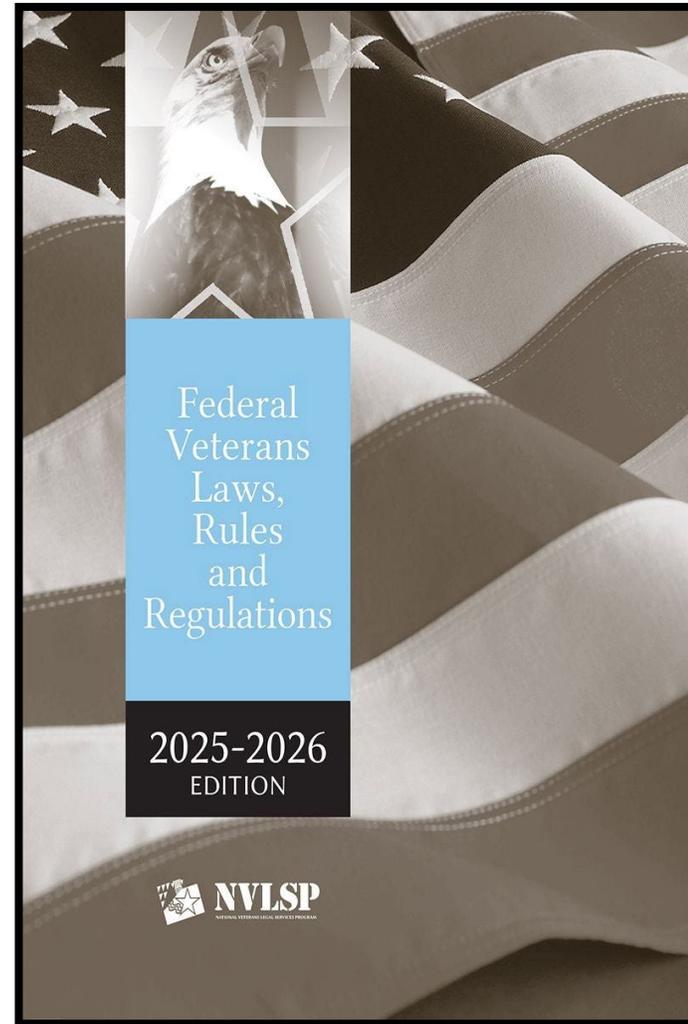
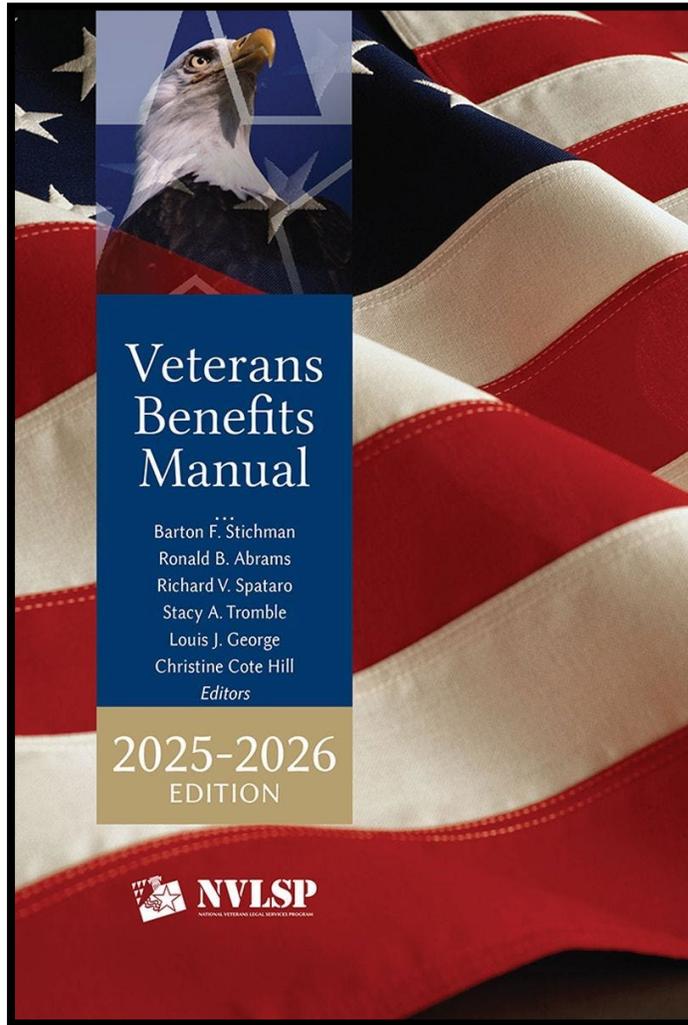
Expert Training – 2025/26



- Trained over 8000 veteran service officers and advocates in 2025
 - In-person training in 22 states
 - Private webinars
 - Live monthly webinars on 10 different veterans law topics for 11 state partners



Publications



<https://productsbynvlsp.org/publications/>

Michigan VVA

MOA with NVLSP: Until 2030

- Automatic Review of BVA Decisions
- Appeals to the CAVC
- BVA Remand Project
- Assistance with Discharge Upgrades
- VSO Liaison
- No Cost Training
 - 4 Webinars annually
 - 15 Basic Training Course annually
 - Virtual Appeals Class annually



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Thank you for allowing us to assist you and our Veteran Community for 45 years!



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