



NVLSP
NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION AND MOA BETWEEN TDVS AND NVLSP

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PAUL WRIGHT



- Executive Director
- Deputy Executive Director (2/2019-7/2021)
- Army JAG Corps and Air Force Veteran

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RICK SPATARO



- Director of Training and Publications
- Has practiced Veterans Law since 2004 at CAVC, Federal Circuit, and BVA
- Veterans Benefits Manual Editor
- Former Managing Attorney of NVLSP's *Nehmer* Lawsuit Division
- U.S. Navy Veteran

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LOU GEORGE



- Special Counsel, focusing on matters at CAVC and Training
- VSO liaison
- Veterans Benefits Manual Editor
- Prior tenure at NVLSP from 1998-2015; served as Staff Attorney, Senior Staff Attorney, and Director of Training and Publications
- Previously worked at BCOM of the Coast Guard, BVA, and SSA

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WHAT IS NVLSP?



- Nonprofit Veterans Service Organization
- Founded in 1981
- Works to ensure that the gov't delivers to our nation's 18 million Vets and active duty personnel the benefits they earned because of disabilities resulting from their military service

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COURT REPRESENTATION



- Individual representation at CAVC, Federal Circuit, other courts
- Class actions
 - Including: *Nehmer, Wolfe, Beaudette*
- If you would like NVLSP to consider representing an appellant at the CAVC, email the request and a copy of the BVA decision to cavc.intake@nvlsp.org
 - NVLSP reviews all TDVS BVA decisions

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LITIGATION RESULTS



- Since 1981, our successful litigation has resulted in over **\$5.4 billion** in disability, death, and medical benefits being awarded to hundreds of thousands of veterans and their survivors that had been unfairly denied
- All representation completely free!
 - No fees taken from client's VA benefits

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BURN PITS CLAIMS ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



- Dedicated to helping Vets and their survivors with burn-pit-related claims and appeals
- Provides assistance with supplemental claims, HLR requests, and BVA appeals
- Prioritizes applicants (1) who were previously denied SC for a non-presumptive burn-pit-related condition, and (2) whose claim for a presumptive condition was denied after the presumption took effect
- Self-help guides available for Vets seeking to file an initial claim or a supplemental claim for a condition that was not presumptive at the time of the prior claim
- nvlsp.org/what-we-do/burn-pits-claims-assistance-program/

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FAMILY CAREGIVER ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



- Assists Vets and family caregivers access VA's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers (PCAFC)
- Self-help guide available for those seeking to learn more about the application process
- May be able to help challenge VA's denial of a PCAFC application or discharge from the program
- More information can be found at nvlsp.org/what-we-do/family-caregiver-assistance-program/

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LAWYERS SERVING WARRIORS



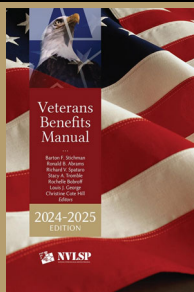
• Lawyers Serving Warriors – free legal assistance through network of volunteer attorneys:

- Discharge upgrades
- Military medical retirement
- CRSC applications
- TSGLI applications and appeals of denied claims
- nvlsp.org/what-we-do/lawyers-serving-warriors/

PUBLICATIONS



- Veterans Benefits Manual
- Federal Veterans Laws, Rules and Regulations



TRAINING



- In-person trainings
- Webinars
 - 10 per year on different topics in veterans law
 - Library of past webinars
- Online Basic Training Course on Veterans Benefits
- <https://productsbynvlsp.org/>



VA BENEFIT IDENTIFIER APP



• NVLSP VA Benefit Identifier App

- Helps Vets and VSOs figure out what VA disability benefits they might be entitled to
- **3 WAYS to Access:**

app.nvlsp.org



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LEGISLATIVE WORK



• Legislative Impact

- Works with key Congressional committees and provides testimony to advance legislative solutions for issues impacting Vets
- Has met with Congressional staffers regarding the PACT Act, Agent Orange Act, Blue Water Vietnam Veterans Act, Caregiver Issues, etc.
- Submitted statements for the record on hearing relating to toxic exposures and burn pits

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MOA



- Since June 2019, NVLSP and TDVS have had an MOA



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CAVC REPRESENTATION



- NVLSP provides pro bono representation at the CAVC to claimants represented by TDVS who were erroneously denied benefits by BVA
- VA POA stays with TDVS while case at CAVC

CAVC REPRESENTATION



- NVLSP attorneys are accredited by TDVS
- NVLSP screens BVA decisions to identify BVA errors
- NVLSP offers pro bono representation to claimant
 - Letter to claimant w/ TDVS letter of introduction

August 28, 2023

John Smith
627 Main Street
Cookeville, TN 38506

Dear Mr. Smith:

I am an attorney with the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP). NVLSP is a nonprofit veterans service organization that works in partnership with the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services, an organization that represents you before the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA).

The Tennessee Department of Veterans Services asked us to review the Board's July 31, 2023 decision to evaluate whether an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) is warranted. We have concluded that the Board made one or more errors in denying your claim for entitlement to service connection for a lower back disability. Therefore, we believe that you may benefit from exercising your right to appeal the Board's decision to the CAVC.

Since 1999, NVLSP has represented thousands of veterans, their survivors, and dependents in an appeal of their Board decision to the CAVC. If you appeal your Board decision to the CAVC, the Tennessee Department of Veterans Services has assigned us to represent you **for free**.

We are available to answer any questions you have about NVLSP representing you before the CAVC. You will receive a letter from NVLSP if you are ever appeal, and you will receive from your VA benefits director a pro bono NVLSP work on your appeal.

If you are interested in appealing your case, please contact me by telephone at (620) 421-5472, or email me at john@nvlsp.org. It is very important that you contact us as soon as possible because the deadline to file your Notice of Appeal is October 28, 2023. In order for us to file an appeal on your behalf, you must contact me at the number above no later than 5:00 p.m. Eastern time on October 27, 2023.

Very Respectfully,
W Stacy A. Trumble
Stacy A. Trumble
Appeal Attorney

1100 Wilson Boulevard, Suite 900 - Arlington, VA 22209 - Tel: 202 265 8000 - Fax: 202 262 8000
Email: info@nvlsp.org - www.nvlsp.org

BVA REPRESENTATION



• NVLSP will find pro bono attorney to represent appellant at BVA for some cases remanded by CAVC:

- BVA likely to make decision without further remand
- NVLSP-trained/VA-accredited attorney in LSW pro bono network
- Client gives permission

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BVA REPRESENTATION



• NVLSP will inform TDVS if claimant agrees

• TDVS keeps POA

• NVLSP will mentor pro bono attorney, who will:

- Draft BVA brief
- Help claimant obtain supporting lay and medical evidence, if necessary/possible

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TRAINING



• NVLSP provides the following training to TDVS each year, at no cost:

- Up to 8 hours of in-person training
- 4 webinars for all TDVS-accredited VSOs

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VSO LIAISON SERVICES



- NVLSP's Special Counsel—Lou George—leads our VSO liaison services team
- We provide free legal consultation to service officers using a TDVS POA (and TDVS leadership) on issues including:
 - Questions on laws and regulations
 - Advocacy strategy
 - Advice to on individual benefits claims
- This advice can be provided on cases anywhere in the VA claim stream. Our goal is to help you get the Vet benefits as early as possible.

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EMAIL A FRIEND: HOW TO CONTACT US



- For VSO Consultations email: vsoliasion@nvlsp.org
- For Burn Pit Assistance email: burnpits.intake@nvlsp.org
- For Caregiver Benefits Assistance email: CaregiverSupportProgram@nvlsp.org
- For questions on CAVC appeals or possible appeals email: Stacy@nvlsp.org
- For questions on training or our Veterans Benefits Manual email: Richard@nvlsp.org



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QUESTIONS



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