



NVLSP
NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

INTRODUCTION AND MOA BETWEEN TDVS AND NVLSP



RICK SPATARO



NVLSP
NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM



- Director of Training and Publications
- Has practiced Veterans Law since 2004 at CAVC, Federal Circuit, and BVA
- Former Managing Attorney of NVLSP's *Nehmer* Lawsuit Division

ALEXIS IVORY



NVLSP
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- Staff Attorney, NVLSP Training Dept. & Lawyers Serving Warriors
- Previously served as Counsel to Board of Veterans' Appeals
- Helped develop NVLSP's VA Benefit Identifier App



NVLSP
NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

WHAT IS NVLSP?

- **Nonprofit Veterans Service Organization**
- **Founded in 1981**
- **Works to ensure that the gov't delivers to Vets and active duty personnel the benefits to which they are entitled because of disabilities resulting from their military service**



NVLSP
NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

WHAT IS NVLSP?

- Individual representation at CAVC, Federal Circuit, other courts
- Class actions
- Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program



WHAT IS NVLSP?

- In-person trainings
- Webinars
 - 10 per year on different topics in veterans law
 - Library of past webinars



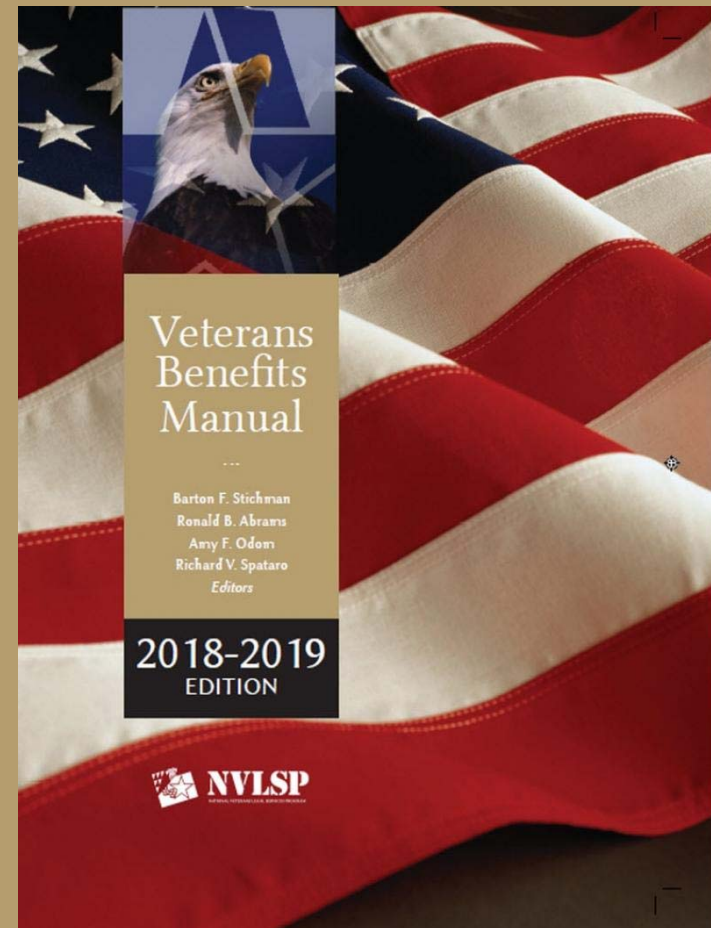
WHAT IS NVLSP?



NVLSP
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■ Publications

- Veterans Benefits Manual
- Basic Training Course on Veterans Benefits
- Veterans Benefits Advocacy DVD





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HTTPS://PRODUCTSBYNVLSP.ORG



Publications

NVLSP and LexisNexis are proud to provide you with several comprehensive training resources including the nation's leading treatise on veterans law, the Veterans Benefits Manual.

[Learn More](#)



Webinars

NVLSP offers continuous live and recorded training and professional development programs for veteran service officers (VSOs), agents, and attorneys who are accredited to represent veterans before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

[Learn More](#)



Online Basic Training Course on Veterans Benefits

The Online Basic Training Course on Veterans Benefits is designed for anyone who helps veterans and their family members obtain benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

[Learn More](#)



WHAT IS NVLSP?

- **Lawyers Serving Warriors – free legal assistance through network of volunteer attorneys:**
 - Discharge upgrades
 - CRSC applications
 - Applications to BCMRs for Vets wrongfully discharged for personality disorder or adjustment disorder
 - Applications to BCMRs for Vets seeking disability retirement
 - Applications to the PDBR for an increase in military disability rating to attain a permanent disability retirement
 - Representation for svc members being processed through IDES
 - Assistance with VA denials of SC for PTSD due to MST



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WHAT IS NVLSP?

■ 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



Download on the
App Store



ANDROID APP ON

Google play



MOA

- **NVLSP and TDVS executed an MOA in June 2019**
 - **Effective June 21, 2019, to June 20, 2021**
 - **Court representation continues until case completed at court**





CAVC REPRESENTATION

- **NVLSP provides pro bono representation at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) to appellants represented by TDVS who were erroneously denied benefits by the BVA**
- **VA POA stays with TDVS while case at CAVC**



CAVC REPRESENTATION

- **Initial matters:**
 - **NVLSP attorneys accredited by TDVS**
 - **TDVS sends NVLSP list of BVA decisions**
 - **NVLSP screens decisions to identify BVA errors**
 - **NVLSP offers pro bono representation**
 - **Letter to Vet w/ TDVS letter of introduction**
 - **Copy to TDVS**



CAVC REPRESENTATION

- **Closing case**
 - **Closing letter**
 - **Advice for remand proceedings**
 - **Copy of JMR / CAVC decision**
 - **Copy to TDVS**
 - **Kathryn Held and Travis Murphy**



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 available to provide BVA representation**



BVA REPRESENTATION

- NVLSP contacts client for permission
- NVLSP informs TDVS if claimant agrees
- TDVS keeps POA



BVA REPRESENTATION

- Pro bono attorney will
 - Gather lay statements, if necessary/possible
 - Obtain medical opinion, if necessary/possible
 - Draft BVA brief
- NVLSP will mentor pro bono attorney



TRAINING & CONSULTATION

- In-person training to TDVS annually
- 4 free webinars selected by TDVS leadership for up to 35 VSOs
- Consultation with senior TDVS officials about legal issues, advocacy strategy, individual VA benefits claims

QUESTIONS



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