Veterans Benefits

Understanding benefits and resources for military personnel, families, and veterans

Veterans and servicemembers are increasingly in need of assistance from civilian counsel. After September 11th enlistments skyrocketed—National Guard and Reserve members have been and are being mobilized, deployed, and returned to their civilian lives and jobs, while many retirees have been recalled to active duty. Many have been medically discharged or discharged based upon retirement or fulfilling their military obligation. A small minority are discharged based on alleged misconduct. Despite their history of service, many veterans still struggle to collect the benefits to which they are entitled. It is estimated that one third of Americans are eligible for some kind of veterans benefit, yet the number of Americans collecting is far smaller. To properly advocate for your client, you must be familiar with the veterans benefits system and the two major income-based benefit programs for disabled veterans and their families. You should understand the Department of Veterans Affairs adjudication process, and how best to advocate within that process.

If you represent servicemembers or veterans, or would like to, this program is for you!

Agenda and written materials

- General Benefits Eligibility Criteria
  How to Decipher a DD-214 and Determine If the Veteran Meets the Requirements for the Benefit, Including Qualifying Service, Character of Discharge, and Other Key Factors

- Discharge Issues/Upgrades
  How Is a Veteran’s Discharge Determined? What Do the Different Characterizations of Discharge Mean for Veterans Seeking Benefits? How Do You Change an Improperly Characterized Discharge?

- Financial Benefits
  What Are the VA’s Compensation and Pension Programs? What Benefits Are Available for Elderly Veterans, and How Do They Apply?

- Veterans Benefits in Common Civil Cases
  How Are the Various Veterans Benefits Treated in Common Civil Cases Like Family Law, Housing, and Consumer Actions? How Does the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act Impact Those Actions?

- “Ask the Experts” Q&A Session

FACULTY
Daniel Nagin, Esq.
Legal Services Center of Harvard Law School, Jamaica Plain, Cochair
Anna Richardson, Esq.
Veterans Legal Services, Newton Center, Cochair

BOSTON
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Tuesday, October 7, 2014
MCLE Conference Center, 10 Winter Place, via Winter Street
Program No. 215005SP01

LIVE WEBCAST
9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon, Tuesday, October 7, 2014
Register at www.mcle.org
Program No. 215005SWBC

RECORDED WEBCAST
2:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m., Tuesday, October 14, 2014
Register at www.mcle.org
Program No. 215005RBBC

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**PROGRAMS**

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