Serving Older Veterans:  
An Introduction to Veterans Benefits

Resource Sheet • JULY 2019

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Supplemental Resources

Department of Veterans Affairs Resources

- Department of Veterans Affairs website – portal to Veterans Benefits Administration, Veterans Health Administration, and National Cemetery Administration.


- Department of Veterans Affairs, Veteran Benefits Administration fact sheets on multiple topics, including VA Service-Connected Compensation, Non-Service-Connected Pension, survivors’ benefits, home loans, burial benefits, and more.

- VA’s Agent Orange Exposure website – includes detailed information about who is considered to have been exposed to Agent Orange, as well as a list of Agent Orange-related health conditions that are presumptively service-connected.

- Department of Veterans Affairs, Veterans Health Administration “Geriatrics and Extended Care” website listing VA services for older adults and adults with chronic or life-limiting illnesses.


- Veterans Compensation Benefits Rate Tables & Pension Rate Table.

Other Veterans & Disability Benefits Resources

- National Veterans Legal Services Program, “Veterans Benefits Manual,” 2018-2019 Edition. This seminal secondary resource is vital for all Veterans Benefits practitioners. It is updated annually and available in print or online through LexisNexis.

- Swords to Plowshares Self-Help Guides on VA Benefits and Military Discharge Upgrades: Swords to Plowshares is a community-based non-profit organization in the Bay Area that provides holistic services to Veterans, including legal assistance with VA Benefits and Military Discharge Upgrades.

- Information about disability income and rates in California: Disability Benefits 101 website.

Pro Bono and Low-Cost Trainings Offered by the Practising Law Institute (PLI)

- “Advocating for Veterans: The Basics on VA Benefits, Discharge Upgrades, Veteran Cultural Competency, and Marginalized Veteran Populations 2019.” A full-day webinar delivered by attorneys from Swords to Plowshares, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, and Connecticut Veterans Legal Center with comprehensive supplemental materials updated annually.
• “Better Serving Older or Disabled Veterans: A Special Session on the Intersections between Veterans, Benefits, Social Security, and Medicaid.” A 3-hour webinar delivered in December 2017 by attorneys from Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles and Justice in Aging with comprehensive supplemental materials.


Onward! Finding Pro Bono Partners and Opportunities

• LawHelpCalifornia – Veterans and Military section: Helping Californians find legal aid and self-help resources.

• National Organization for Veteran’s Advocates – Membership-based organization for advocates practicing VA law, including directory of VA-accredited representatives.

• Stateside Legal website: Legal help for military members, veterans, and their families.

• Department of Veterans Affairs, Accreditation Search for attorneys and claims agents.

Presenter Information

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Case consultation assistance is available for attorneys and professionals seeking more information to help older adults. Contact NCLER at ConsultNCLER@acl.hhs.gov.

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