

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, “[Federal Benefits for Veterans, Dependents and Survivors](#),” 2018 Online Edition.
- 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.
- Department of Veterans Affairs, “[Health Care Benefits Overview](#),” 2018 Online Edition.
- 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.
- [“A Guide to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTSD\) for Advocates: How to Effectively Address PTSD in Matters Involving Veterans and Others Affected by Trauma,”](#) July 25, 2017.

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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