

Serving Older Veterans: An Introduction to Veterans Benefits

RESOURCE GUIDE • April 2022

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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](#),” 2021 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.
- 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, Special Compensation Rate Tables](#) & [Pension Rate Table](#).

Other Veterans & Disability Benefits Resources

- National Veterans Legal Services Program, “[Veterans Benefits Manual](#),” 2021-2022 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.

Pro Bono & Low-Cost Trainings Offered by the Practicing Law Institute (PLI)

- “[Advocating for Veterans: The Basics on VA Benefits, Discharge Upgrades, Veteran Cultural Competency, and Marginalized Veteran Populations 2021](#).” A full-day webinar delivered by attorneys from Swords to Plowshares, Legal Aid Foundation of Los Angeles, Connecticut Veterans Legal Center and Veterans Legal Clinic at Harvard Law School and with comprehensive supplemental materials updated annually.
- “[Racism in the Military: Advocating for Veterans Who Have Endured Race-Based Discrimination and Abuse in Service](#)”
- “[A Guide to Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder \(PTSD\) for Advocates: How to Effectively Address PTSD in Matters Involving Veterans and Others Affected by Trauma](#),” 2020.

Onward! Finding Pro Bono Partners and Opportunities

- [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.
- [Pro Bono Program](#): Free legal assistance with benefit denial at the Court of Veterans Appeals through the Veteran Consortium.

Please contact ConsultNCLER@acl.hhs.gov for free case consultation assistance. Sign up for our email list and access more resources at NCLER.acl.gov.

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