

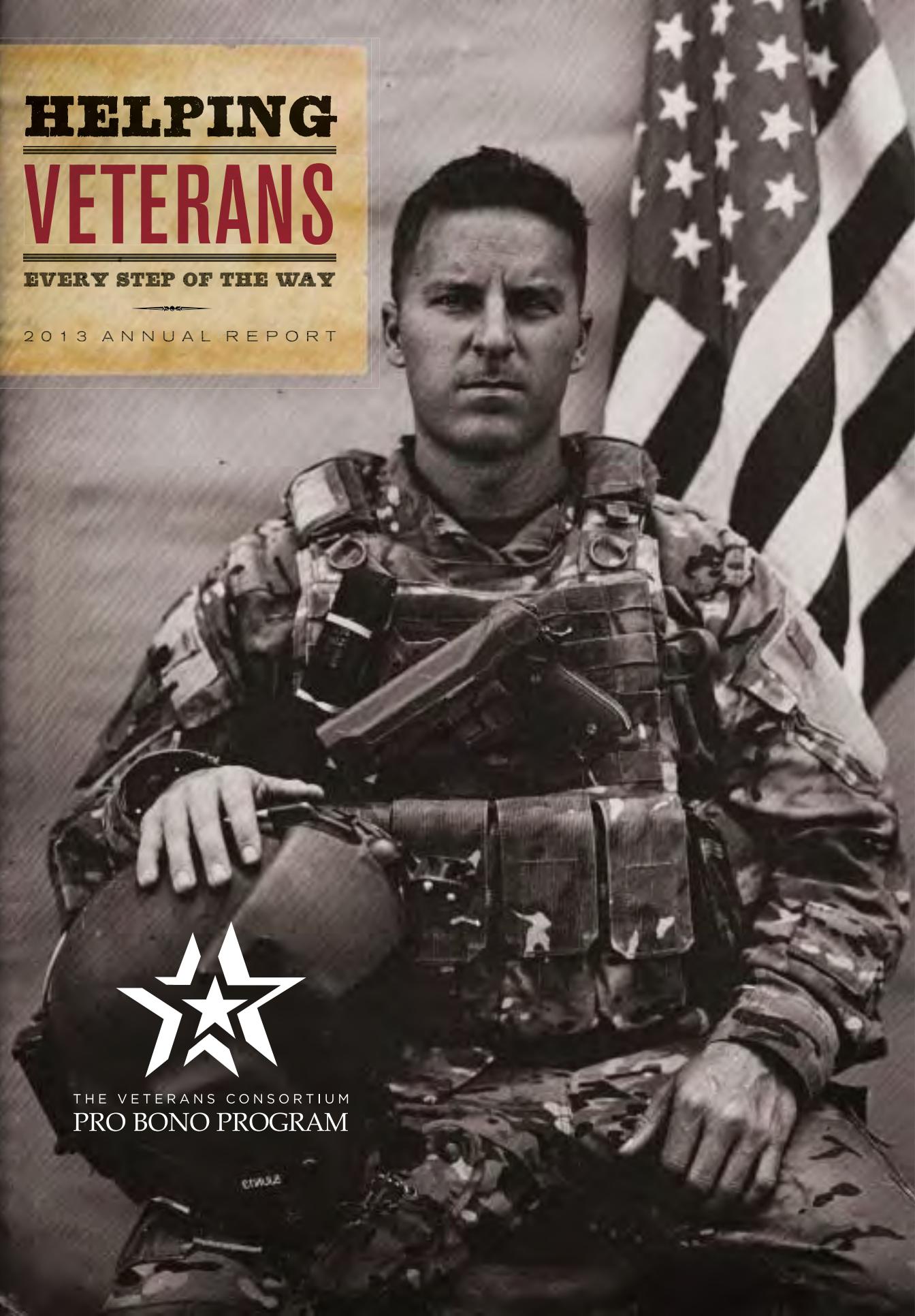
# HELPING VETERANS

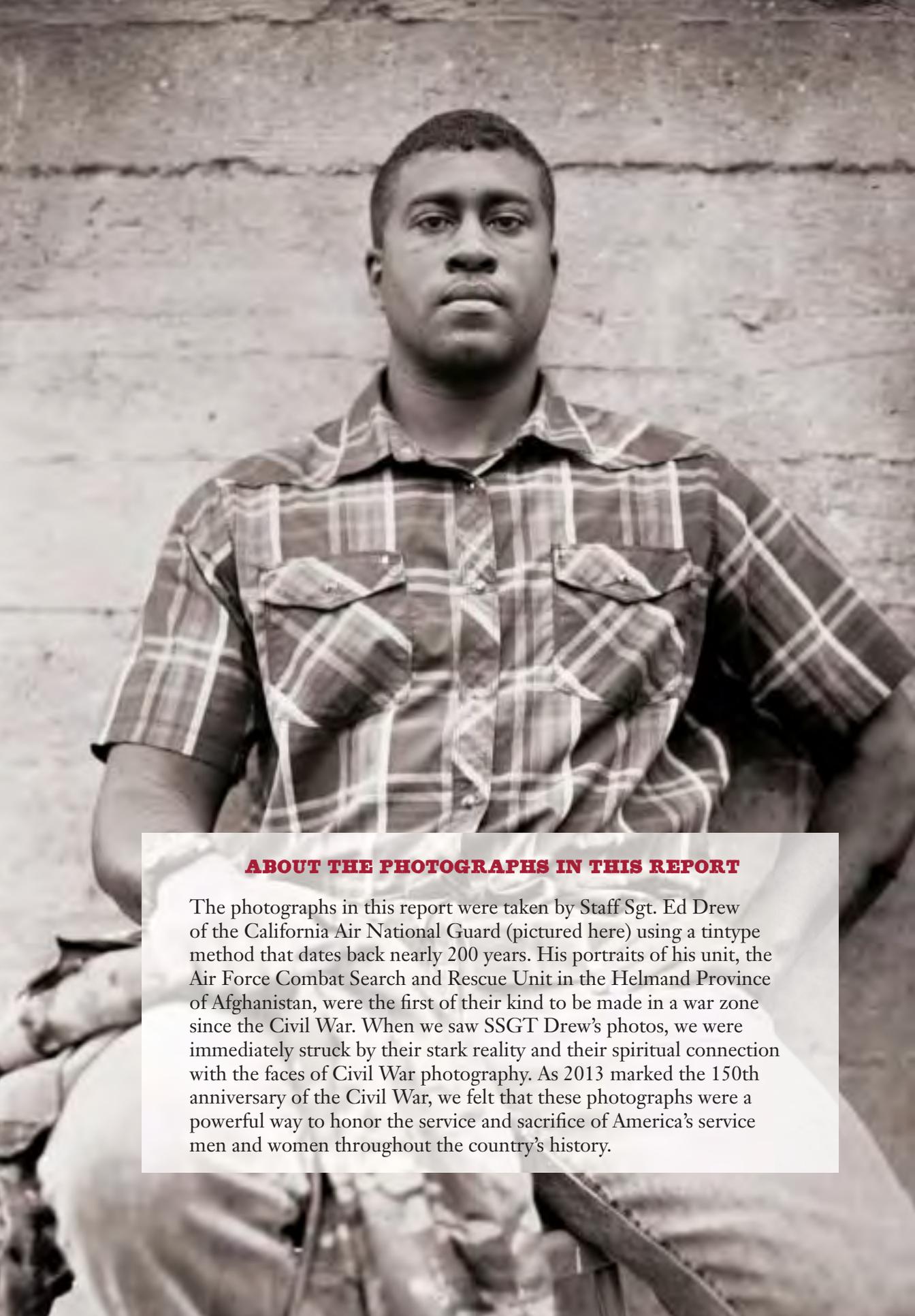
EVERY STEP OF THE WAY

2013 ANNUAL REPORT



THE VETERANS CONSORTIUM  
PRO BONO PROGRAM





### **ABOUT THE PHOTOGRAPHS IN THIS REPORT**

The photographs in this report were taken by Staff Sgt. Ed Drew of the California Air National Guard (pictured here) using a tintype method that dates back nearly 200 years. His portraits of his unit, the Air Force Combat Search and Rescue Unit in the Helmand Province of Afghanistan, were the first of their kind to be made in a war zone since the Civil War. When we saw SSGT Drew's photos, we were immediately struck by their stark reality and their spiritual connection with the faces of Civil War photography. As 2013 marked the 150th anniversary of the Civil War, we felt that these photographs were a powerful way to honor the service and sacrifice of America's service men and women throughout the country's history.

# MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD



For more than 20 years, the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program (Consortium) has worked to help our nation's veterans and their families obtain benefits to which they may be entitled by ensuring they have access to legal assistance.

We are extremely proud that we have been able to help so many veterans and families of veterans since the Consortium began. We also know that we could help many more if those who could benefit from help from the Consortium became aware of the services we offer. That is why our focus during 2013 has been on extending our reach to connect more effectively with veterans who could be helped by our services. During the year we focused on providing established nonprofits that focus on veterans with the details of the Consortium's capabilities and expertise. In addition, a grant provided to the Consortium by Google was used to advertise our services on the Internet.

In 2014, we expect to continue our outreach efforts through several new initiatives as well as expand the ways in which we help veterans. For example, in 2014 we will launch a helpline that will provide limited legal advice to veterans who are unrepresented at the Court.

As the backlog at the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs decreases in the coming year, we anticipate that, as a result, the demand for our services will continue to increase because the number of potential appeals will increase. Looking forward, we will advance our mission by reaching more veterans and providing help to the many unrepresented appellants that meet the criteria established by our mission.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Mary Ann Gilleece".

Mary Ann Gilleece  
Chairman, Executive Board

# MISSION



The Pro Bono Program established as its mission that no veteran or survivor who has taken an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, who has a legally credible claim, and who wishes to be represented by counsel, will be without competent representation; and to accomplish this mission by:

- Recruiting and training volunteer attorneys in veterans law and the procedures of the Court;
- Referring to those attorneys, to handle without cost to the appellants, evaluated cases where there is an issue that should be fully presented to the Court and where the appellants are unable to afford counsel; and
- Providing advice and support to attorney, veterans, and appellants.

# HOW WE HELP: THE PRO BONO PROGRAM PROCESS



Whether you're a veteran or a surviving loved one, taking an appeal to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is a daunting prospect. The Pro Bono Program exists to provide appellants with the opportunity to be heard and receive the best possible outcome at the Court.

To that end, we use a clear three-step process through which we reach out to veterans, evaluate their cases, and place each case with a well-qualified attorney who will pursue the appeal.

We provide all of these services to veterans and their loved ones at no charge.



## TRULY A GREAT PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

VETERAN WHO SERVED IN THE  
LATE 1970s



## OUTREACH TO VETERANS

# STEP ONE



The first step in the Pro Bono Program is making sure veterans whose cases might be eligible for representation know about us and the services we offer.

One way we do that is by tracking court filings. When an appeal is filed at the court and the veteran appellant doesn't have an attorney, we send the appellant a packet of information that describes the processes of the court and our services.

Veterans can also learn about our services through our website ([www.vetsprobono.org](http://www.vetsprobono.org)) or contact us by phone at any stage of the benefits process.

No matter how we connect with veterans, they find that we provide more than legal assistance. We also provide the critical support and information they need, along with people who understand their situation.

# THERE ARE SO MANY VETERANS

THAT ARE NOT ABLE TO AFFORD ATTORNEYS  
AND THIS PROGRAM IS TRULY A BLESSING.

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US ARMY VETERAN WHO SERVED DURING WORLD WAR II



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## REACHING OUT TO ATTORNEYS

In addition to our veteran outreach, we regularly communicate with members of the private bar, major law firms, and corporate legal departments to recruit volunteer pro bono attorneys to meet the Pro Bono Program's needs.

In 2013, the Program's Outreach and Education Component coordinated recruitment activities with a number of groups and organizations, including:

- Small, medium, and large law firms, usually through the firm's pro bono counsel or public service counsel;
- State or local bar associations;
- The Pro Bono Institute of the Georgetown University Law Center;
- The D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program;
- The American Health Lawyers Association;
- The Program's Private Bar Recruitment Committee.

Over the past 20 years, National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP), the contracted-provider of Outreach and Education for the Pro Bono Program, has developed extensive connections in the pro bono legal community, and uses these long-standing relationships to recruit, plan, and advertise Program training.



PROVIDED MORE THAN **1,600 VETERANS**  
AND OTHER INDIVIDUALS WITH INFORMATION  
ABOUT PRO BONO PROGRAM SERVICES, COURT  
PROCESSES, AND REFERRALS TO NON-PROGRAM  
RELATED SERVICES



TRAINED MORE THAN **200 ATTORNEYS**  
IN VETERANS APPELLANT LAW TO PREPARE THEM  
TO PROVIDE VOLUNTEER SERVICES TO PRO BONO  
PROGRAM CLIENTS





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In 2013, more than 430 veterans requested Pro Bono Program assistance with their cases at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

The Pro Bono Program also provided more than 1,600 individuals with a variety of assistance, including filing their appeals at the Court and referring the individuals to other non-Program related services.



THE PRO BONO PROGRAM'S WEBSITE (WWW.VETSPROBONO.ORG) PROVIDES A VARIETY OF INFORMATION FOR VETERANS AND FAMILY MEMBERS, INCLUDING INSTRUCTIONS FOR APPEALING A CLAIM, ANSWERS TO FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, AND USEFUL LINKS.

**YOUR PROGRAM IS  
WONDERFUL  
AND ALL VETERANS  
SHOULD CONTACT YOUR SERVICE.**

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VETERAN WHO SERVED  
IN THE MID-1970s

# CASE EVALUATION

## STEP TWO

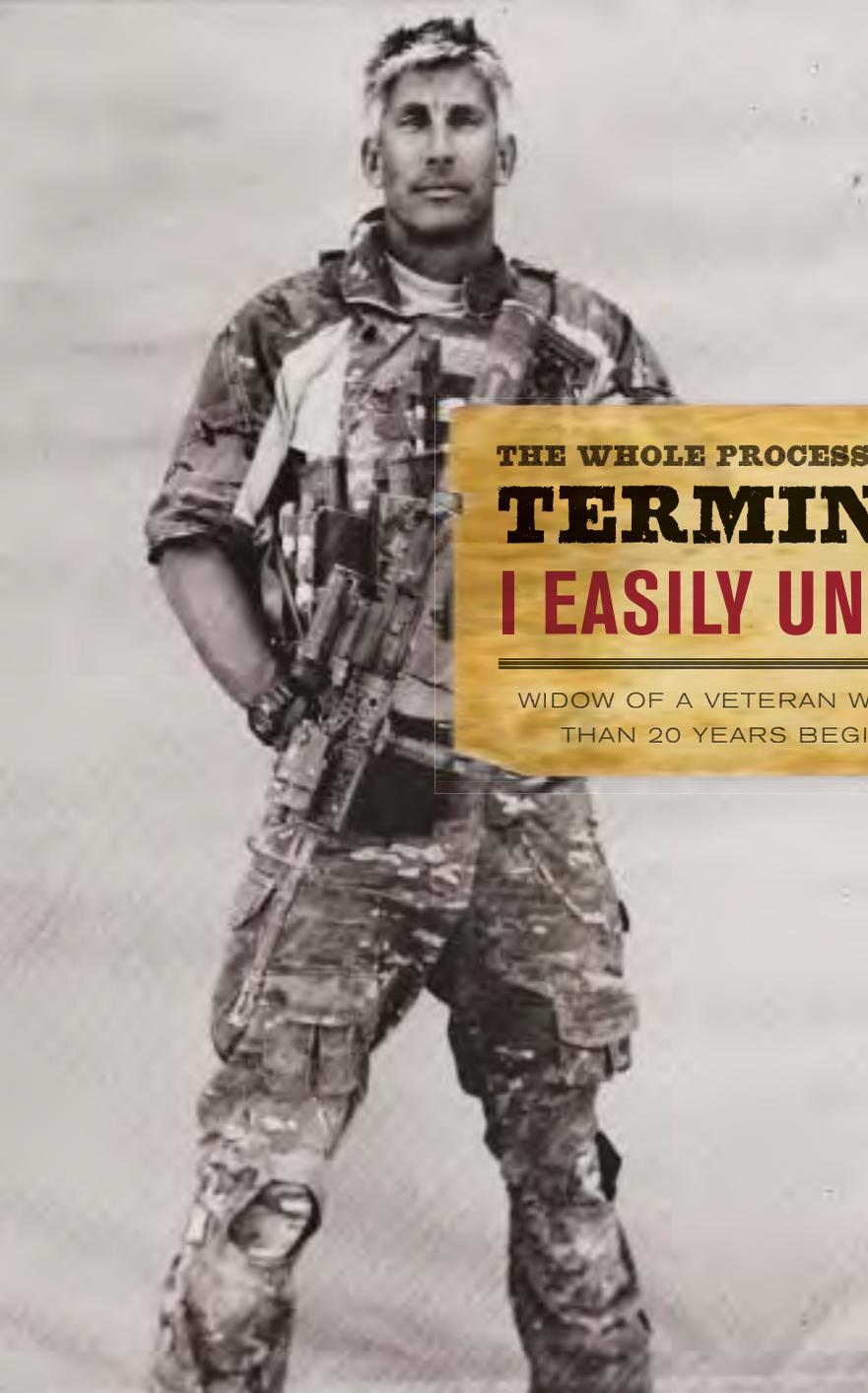


Cases come to us in a number of ways, from our offer of assistance, to cases that are referred by the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, to those that come to us through other sources, including from private attorneys and the Internet.

No matter how the case comes to our attention, when a veteran asks for our services, our Case Evaluation and Placement staff confirms the veteran's eligibility for representation and determines if the case has sufficient merit for a volunteer attorney to present an argument before the Court.

We review each case and provide the veteran or their loved one with a free attorney if he or she meets all of the following criteria:

- The person requesting **PRO BONO PROGRAM** services is a veteran or qualifying family member of a veteran;
- Has received an adverse decision from the **BOARD OF VETERANS' APPEALS (BVA)**;
- Has filed or wishes to file an appeal of that BVA decision to the **U.S. COURT OF APPEALS FOR VETERANS CLAIMS** (the Court);
- The appellant **DOES NOT** have an attorney to help him or her;
- Asks us for **OUR ASSISTANCE**;
- Meets our program's financial eligibility guidelines; and
- We can identify at least **ONE MERITORIOUS ISSUE** in the case that a volunteer attorney can argue before the Court.



THE WHOLE PROCESS WAS EXPLAINED IN  
**TERMINOLOGY**  
I EASILY UNDERSTOOD.

WIDOW OF A VETERAN WHO SERVED FOR MORE  
THAN 20 YEARS BEGINNING IN THE 1960s



As part of our case evaluation process, we thoroughly review the Record Before the Agency (RBA), which includes the information that the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) judge used to rule on the claim. We also communicate with the veteran to ask questions and get additional details about the case.



WIN OR LOSE, I RECEIVED THE  
**BEST LEGAL**  
REPRESENTATION.

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VETERAN WHO SERVED IN  
THE LATE 1950s



PROVIDED MORE THAN  
**230 PRO SE**  
**APPELLANTS** WITH  
INFORMATION ABOUT THEIR  
CASES IF THE CASES WERE  
NOT ACCEPTED FOR PRO  
BONO PROGRAM SERVICES

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## **EVALUATING THE CASE TO HELP A VETERAN**

In late 2012, Mr. Barlow of Maine, who served on active duty in the early 1970s, requested the assistance of the Pro Bono Program.

When Mr. Barlow came to the Pro Bono Program, he had received a denial for his request for an increased rating for service-connected reflux esophagitis with peptic ulcer symptoms. The Board of Veterans' Appeals had determined that the criteria for an increased rating had not been met. The Pro Bono Program's Veterans Law Specialist Leonce Wilson, who has more than 20 years of experience working with veterans benefits, reviewed Mr. Barlow's claim file. Mr. Wilson found that the Board of Veterans' Appeals had considered factors outside of the rating criteria when making its decision and that Mr. Barlow's case deserved to be remanded by the Court so that Mr. Barlow's request could be processed correctly.

The Pro Bono Program assigned Mr. Barlow's case to a volunteer attorney, Mr. Carlos Da Rosa of the District of Columbia. In 2013 the Court granted a motion for a joint remand of the claim, which is an agreement between the Department of Veterans Affairs and Mr. Barlow to send the claim back to VA for proper processing. Mr. Barlow was thus provided with another opportunity to provide VA with additional evidence and arguments to support his request for an increased rating for his condition.



## PLACING A CASE

# STEP THREE



Once we have confirmed a veteran's eligibility and determined that the case has merit, we assign a Pro Bono Program volunteer attorney or Direct Representation attorney to handle the appeal. We maintain an extensive database of attorneys and assign one based on the level and type of experience required.

How the case is placed can be critical to its success, so we work hard to match the appellant with the attorney who is best suited to take the case. For example, if a case involves particularly complex medical issues, we may seek out an attorney who is also a physician or registered nurse. Or, if a case is particularly difficult or requires immediate action, we call on the expertise of the attorneys in our Direct Representation Component, which is run by attorneys from Paralyzed Veterans of America, one of the founding members of the Pro Bono Program.

We monitor the progress of all evaluated cases—even those that were not assigned to a Pro Bono volunteer—and we continue to provide support for our volunteer attorneys after they receive a case. This support includes providing each attorney with a mentor experienced in veterans law as well as Court practices and procedures. We can also offer moot court practice sessions for volunteer attorneys who have oral arguments scheduled before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.



**THE WIDOW WAS FOUND TO BE  
ENTITLED TO MORE THAN**

**\$125,000**

**IN BACK BENEFITS WITH ONGOING  
SUPPORT FOR LIFE.**

A VOLUNTEER ATTORNEY FOR THE FAMILY  
OF A KOREAN WAR VETERAN

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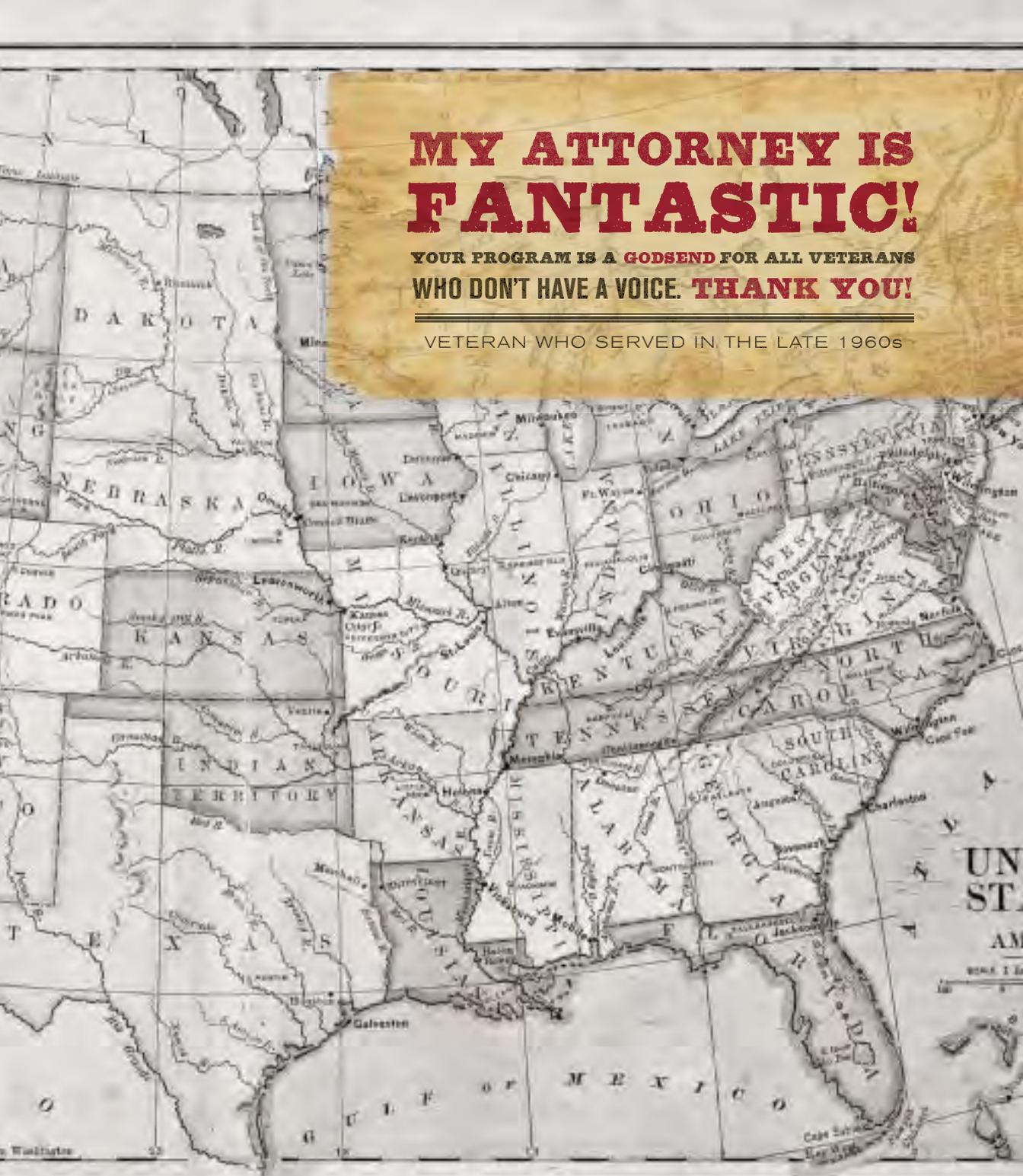
## **TRAINING ATTORNEYS TO BE PART OF THE PROGRAM**

The Pro Bono Program offers an education program to help ensure that attorneys throughout the U.S. are qualified to represent veterans in their appeals. In 2013, we held five free, full-day education sessions training more than 200 attorneys.

- In May we held a training session in Seattle, WA at Davis Wright Tremaine LLP. The training was also transmitted via webinar to Davis Wright offices in four locations, as well as to attorneys in Hawaii and Colorado.
- We provided two separate live training sessions at the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program in May and November 2013. Another training session, offered to departing judicial law clerks, was held at the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in August.
- Finally, a training session took place at Baker Donelson in Nashville, TN, in October. The firm transmitted the training via videoconferencing to 13 of its offices throughout the country.

The use of webinar technology is an instrumental part of the future of Consortium trainings held outside of the Washington, D.C., area because it allows training to be delivered to a much broader geographic range of attorneys in the same period of time.





# MY ATTORNEY IS FANTASTIC!

**YOUR PROGRAM IS A GODSEND FOR ALL VETERANS  
WHO DON'T HAVE A VOICE. THANK YOU!**

VETERAN WHO SERVED IN THE LATE 1960s

*Pro Bono volunteer attorneys, like our clients, are located across the country. When practical, we seek to place each case with an attorney who is near the veteran appellant.*



**THE PEOPLE BEHIND  
THE PROGRAM**

Back row: *Ronald B. Abrams, Esq., Director; Roy E. Spicer, Director; Gary M. Butter, Esq., Vice Chairman; William S. Foster, Jr., Esq., Director.* Front row: *Len J. Selfon, Esq., Secretary; Mary Ann Gilleece, Esq., Chairman; Verna Jones, Esq., Director*

**DIRECTORS**

*Louis J. George, Esq., Director of Outreach and Education Component; Camille Soleil, Esq., Executive Director; David H. Myers, Esq., Director of Case Evaluation and Placement Component*



**INVITED GUESTS**

*Hugh Quinn, Esq., Treasurer; Dr. Bristow Hardin, Legal Services Corporation; Cary P. Sklar, Esq., U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims*



# THE ATTORNEYS AND FIRMS

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program offers our sincere appreciation to more than 300 volunteer attorneys, and their firms, who contributed their services during 2013. Their dedication and resources make what we do possible.

In 2013, volunteer attorneys contributed services worth more than \$3,425,000, bringing the total to more than \$68,900,000 since the program began in 1992.

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**The Law Office  
of Karen Bower**

*Karen Bower*

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of Tim Connelly**

*Tim Connelly*

**The Law Offices of Donald  
Guthrie, PA**

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& Taylor, LLP**

*Sheldon N. Sandler*

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## 2013 DAVID ISBELL INTERN



My name is Simone Williams, a third-year law student at William and Mary. Since I was little I have always been involved in the military lifestyle. My interest in veterans law sparked when I interned my first year of law school at our school's Veterans Benefit Clinic. Since then I obtained a certain passion for our country's veterans to ensure that they are getting the benefits they deserved. I was thrilled to be able to

continue that passion working at Consortium this past summer where I had such a phenomenal experience. Although I am not absolutely certain about my life after graduation, I plan to always help veterans in some type of way.

## 2013 CLINICS

### Emory Law Volunteer Clinic for Veterans

*H. Lane Denard Jr., Esq., Adjunct Professor*

### George Mason University Clinic for Legal Assistance to Service Members and Veterans

*Laurie Neff, Esq., Director & Managing Attorney*

### Stetson University College of Law Veterans' Law Institute

*Michael P. Allen, Esq., Director*

### University of Detroit Mercy School of Law Veterans Law Clinic

*Tammy M. Kudialis, Esq., Director*

### The Veterans Clinic at the University of Missouri School of Law

*Angela Drake, Esq., Supervising Attorney*

### Widener University School of Law Veterans Law Clinic

*Thomas J. Reed, Esq., Professor Emeritus*

## 2013 SOLO PRACTITIONERS

Chinwe Adetula	Lewis C. Fichera	Sonia C. Lawson	Patrick Rice
Michael S. Ahearn	Fennie L. Fiddler	Kristie Lewis	Danielle Rinnier
Katherine Alexander	Robert H. Foley	Melinda M. Lord	Kathlyne M. Rog
Deola Ali	Sandra K. Foreman	Byron A. Lorrier	Dennie Rose
Christina Arenas	Harry J. Fulton	Leslie P. Machado	Douglas J. Rosinski
Sonya N. Armfield	Patricia Glazek	Dakota D. Martin	Jamie B. Rudert
Michael E. Banister	Paige Gold	Robert G. Maurer	Larry W. Russell
Nigel A. Barrella	Albert Gordon	Natalie Mays	Leslie Schmidt
Travis N. Barrick	Robert B. Goss	Everett L. McKeown	Peter J. Sebekos
Benjamin J. Bartlett	James Graulich	M. Marcelin McKie	Brian P. Segee
Dan Berger	Gordon Griffin	Teresa M. Meagher	Charles A. Shanor
Rebecca J. Bernhard	John Gross	Valerie D. Metrakos	Alexis N. Stackhouse
Tiffany Bodger	Michael Guy	Joseph Miele	Theodore F. Sumner
Sandra Booth	Renee M. Harris	Eric C. Miller	Mark Tanney
Maureen M. Boyle	Jennifer L. Haynes	Jill W. Mitchell	Robyn A. Thorpe
William Brew	Joseph M. Henriquez	Rafael S. Modet	Shannon L. Tissot
Joseph A. Broderick	Joseph S. Hensley	Katie K. Molter	Jennifer J. Tobin
Jarrett Brown	Zachary D. Herbert	Edye Moran	Michael Toomey
Sean Burke	Diane Hester	Ross O. Morreale	John E. Tuthill
Dan Burton	Mary Hoefler	Seema D. Morse	Kim L. Underwood
Robert N. Caldwell	Stephen Hoffman	Aaron Moshiahwili	Tracey L. Urban
Laura L. Catlett	Gina Dines Holness	Veronica M. Neisler	Mary Vavrina
Tamara Christian	Shannon K. Holstein	Hugh K. Nisbet, Jr.	Alkeyvia Walker
John Cogan	James Hughes	John F. Nownes III	Robert P. Walsh
Laurie G. Cole	Theodore C. Jarvi	Lynne O'Connor	Burton J. Waltman
Christine A. Connolly	Linden H. Joesting	Raul Ordonez	Katrina Washington
Barbara J. Cook	Erin Johnson	Rosalyn W. Otieno	Caren M. Webb
Margaret A. Costello	Charlene Johnson	Lesa M. Pamplin	Christine K. West
Carlos Da Rosa	Herman N. Johnson, Jr.	Terrence Parker	Ruth Joanna Kate Williams
Jason Dorn	Stacey b. Jones	Rebecca C. Patrick	Leonce M. Wilson
David M. Doughty	Junius J. Joyner III	Sonya L. Pence	Randy Winn
Katrina Eagle	Diane B. Kadlec	John Poindexter	Jonathan R. Wise
Robin M. Earnest	Sean Kendall	Rob Porcarelli	Jeffrey L. Zavrotny
Erika D. Edwards	Thomas P. F. Kiely	Christopher A. Porco	Winona W. Zimmerlin
Kent A. Eiler	Keith Krom	Sharon R. Powell	Rose A. Zitiello
Lauren M. Exnicios	Kim Krummeck	Michelle D. Powers	Vladlen D. Zvenyach
David Feldstein	Catherine Lafond	Kiran Raj	

# 2013 FINANCIALS

## STATEMENT OF GRANT INCOME AND EXPENSES (UNAUDITED)

REVENUE	
Grant Funds Carried Forward (prior years)	\$1,560,569
2013 Grant Funds Made Available by LSC	\$2,520,572
Interest Earned 1/1/13 - 12/31/13	\$364
<b>Total Funds Available in Grant Year 2013</b>	<b>\$4,081,505</b>
EXPENSES	
Program Services	
Executive Board	–
Personnel Expenditures	\$1,131,683
Operating Expenditures	\$533,102
Property Acquisition	\$27,879
<b>Total Program Services Expenses</b>	<b>\$1,692,664</b>
Contract Services	
Outreach & Education	\$220,503
Direct Representation	\$77,160
Evaluation & Placement	\$20,760
General & Administrative	\$69,055
<b>Total Contract Services Expenses</b>	<b>\$387,478</b>
Total 2013 Grant Expenses	\$2,080,142
Excess of Total Grant Funds over Expenses	\$2,001,363
Reserve Funds	\$900,000
Available Grant Funds as of 12/31/2013	\$1,101,363

# 2013 FINANCIALS

## REPORTED/ESTIMATED ORGANIZATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

The American Legion	\$1,530
Disabled American Veterans	\$1,021
National Veterans Legal Services Program	\$13,490
Paralyzed Veterans of America	\$177,574
Holland & Knight	\$104,250
Google	\$7,200
Baker Botts, LLP	*
Quinn Forensics, Inc.	\$52,550
<b>Total Value of Organizational Contributions<sup>a</sup></b>	<b>\$357,615</b>

*<sup>a</sup>Each of the Program's founding veterans service organizations, as well as the firms or businesses of our Board members, make various contributions of time or services to the Program during the course of the year.*

*\* Value of contributed services was unavailable at press time.*

## GRANTS FOR MEDICAL OPINIONS

In 2013, the Pro Bono Program used funds generously donated by our supporters to launch a pilot project offering grants to appellants who were represented by a Program volunteer and have received a remand from the Court to the Board of Veterans Appeals. These grants are specifically to pay for a medical opinion to provide critical information that may help an appellant win the case when the appellant cannot afford to pay for the opinion.

# 2013 FINANCIALS

## NONORGANIZATIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Estimated Donated Pro Bono Legal Services <sup>b</sup>	\$3,425,364
Donated Services – D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program	\$3,000
Donated Services – Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	\$500
Donated Services – Baker Donelson	\$4,750
Donated Services – Goodman, Allen & Filetti (Mentoring)	\$13,230
<b>Total Nonorganizational Contributions</b>	<b>\$3,446,844</b>
<b>Total Program Organization and Nonorganizational Contributions &amp; Services</b>	<b>\$3,804,459</b>

<sup>b</sup>This figure was calculated by multiplying the number of cases placed with the pro bono attorneys by the average number of hours for a pro bono attorney to complete a case, as reported by pro bono attorneys completing cases in 2013, and multiplying by the 2013 Laffey matrix hourly rate for a private attorney in their 4th to 7th year of practice.

## 2013 DONATED FUNDS

Paul Hamel	\$210
Honorable Vet	\$10
Robert Crill	\$50
Matthew Ferrier	\$25
Disabled American Veterans Charitable Service Trust	\$10,000
Combined Federal Campaign	\$34,938
Razoo Foundation	\$10
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$45,243</b>

# 2013 FINANCIALS

## SUMMARY OF DONATED FUNDS AND EXPENSES

Contributions available as of 12/31/13	\$193,929
Contributions received as of 12/31/13	\$45,243
Interest earned 1/1 - 12/31/13	\$57
<b>Total contributions/interest</b>	<b>\$239,229</b>
LESS	
Expenses paid from contributions 1/1 - 12/31/13	\$(19,156)
<b>Contributions available as of 12/31/13</b>	<b>\$220,073</b>



**THANKS FOR ALL THE  
HELP AND SUPPORT  
AND ASSIGNING A WELL-INFORMED  
ATTORNEY TO MY CASE.  
HE KEPT IN CONTACT WITH  
ME ON ALL THE MATTERS.**

WIDOW OF A WWII VETERAN



VOLUNTEER ATTORNEYS  
CONTRIBUTED NEARLY  
**\$3,425,400**  
IN PRO BONO SERVICES  
IN 2013.



## PHOTO DESCRIPTIONS

*Cover:* Lieutenant/Copilot, USAF Combat Search and Rescue Special Operations Team, Helmund Province, Afghanistan (SSGT Ed Drew). The Pro Bono Program wishes to extend a special thanks to the men and women of the unit for their service, and a very special “thank you” to SSGT Ed Drew for the use of his stunning photographs.

*Inside Cover:* A veteran of six years active duty in the U.S. Air Force, SSGT Drew is a member of the California Air National Guard who served as an aerial gunner and a defensive heavy weapons and tactics specialist with Combat Search and Rescue Special Operations helicopters deployed to Afghanistan

*Page 3:* **Capt., CRO;** Combat Search and Rescue Special Operations Team (Drew)

*Page 4:* **Officers & men of Company F, 3rd Massachusetts Heavy Artillery**

*Page 5:* Combat Search and Rescue Special Operations Team with HH60G Pave Helo (Drew)

*Pages 6–7:* Combat Search and Rescue Special Operations Team (Drew)

*Page 8:* **Patients in Ward K, Armory Square Hospital, Washington D.C.** This hospital stood on the site of the National Air and Space Museum from 1862 to 1865 and administered to more than 13,000 sick and wounded soldiers.

*Page 8 (lower):* **Captain, Pilot,** Combat Search and Rescue Special Operations Team (Drew)

*Page 11 (left):* **MSGT, Pararescue;** Combat Search and Rescue Special Operations Team (Drew)

*Page 11 (right):* **Private Levi Miller, USA, 14th Ohio Infantry**

*Page 12 (upper):* **SSGT,** Logistics Support, Combat Search and Rescue Spec Ops Team (Drew)

*Page 12 (lower):* **Jennie Rodgers, (1843–1915)** was an Irish born immigrant who served in the Union Army as Albert D.J. Cashier. She enlisted with the 95th Illinois and served with that unit throughout the war, fighting at Vicksburg, Nashville, and Kennesaw Mountain.

*Page 13:* **Francis Clalin Clayton** enlisted as “Jack Williams” to serve with her husband in Missouri (USA) artillery and cavalry units.

*Page 15 (Upper):* **Co. F, 4th US Colored Infantry.** This is a post-war photo (November 1865). The unit saw action though out 1864 and 1865, including the battle of New Market Heights on September 29, 1864, during which four members of the regiment received Medals of Honor. The Company First Sergeant (on the left) is Harry Henry of Cambridge Maryland.

*Page 15 (Lower):* **1st Sgt. Nimrod Burke, USA, Co. F, 23 US Colored Infantry.** Originally a Union scout, 1st Sgt. Burke served with his unit during the 1864 Overland Campaign and the siege of Richmond, including

the Battle of the Crater. He was at Appomattox Court House on April 9, 1865, when the Army of Northern Virginia laid down its arms.

*Page 26:* **TSGT Gunner,** Combat Search and Rescue Special Operations Team (Drew)

*Page 27 (Upper):* **Union Sanitary Commission Field Hospital** near Fredericksburg, Virginia.

*Page 27 (Lower):* **Civil War veteran Samuel Decker** with prosthetic limbs of his own design, which allowed him to eat and write with relative ease. He also served as the Doorkeeper to the U.S. House of Representatives.

*Page 28:* **USS Saint Louis** (“Cairo Class” ironclad gunboat).

**NOTE:** “The subjects of Drew’s photographs are his comrades. Proud, blithe, stoic, pensive—whatever their mood, their lingering expressions are eerily engaging, the duration of each exposure having rendered them with a ghostly effect. As such, they force the viewer to think anew about individuals who risk themselves at war.” “The Guardian Photography Blog” (J. Weeks, July 22, 2013).

It should also be noted that the photos generously provided by SSGT Drew are, as a result of the tintype process, “reversed.” To honor the integrity of SSGT Drew’s efforts, his photographs are presented within that artistic vision.

# DEDICATION



The tragedy of the Civil War was entering its final act in Virginia and North Carolina as the journey to unity had another sixteen months to run. And despite great sacrifice, that unity was achieved. To assist those thousands of veterans who helped preserve the nation, the agency that would ultimately become the Department of Veterans Affairs was created.

Just 80 years later the grandchildren and great-grandchildren of the veterans of both sides of that conflict, the Greatest Generation, united under one flag and one cause to complete the Crusade in Europe and the liberation of the Pacific. Then, just 50 years ago, the young men and women of the next generation answered their country's call in the war-torn jungles of Vietnam and waters of the Tonkin Gulf. Their country would again, through the efforts of the Veterans Administration, extend a helping hand to those who had endured the ravages of war.

Once again, in the fall of 2001, the country called and its young men and women would take up the torch of freedom passed down to them through Gettysburg, San Juan Hill, Belleau Wood, Normandy and Iwo Jima, Inchon, and Khe Sanh. They would carry it to the sands of Iraq and the mountains of Afghanistan with honor, integrity, and a sense of purpose and duty. They, like those who went before them, are entitled to be supported by their country through the auspices of the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Accordingly, we dedicate this annual report, and our daily efforts, to those who have served in Southwest Asia, with the same love of country that compelled their forefathers to serve their country 150 years ago, and to see that they receive the benefits that they so richly deserve.



THE VETERANS CONSORTIUM  
PRO BONO PROGRAM

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AND PLACEMENT**

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