The Veterans Consortium 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 lawyers in veterans law and the procedures of the Court;

**Referring** to those lawyers, 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 by

**Providing** advice and support to the lawyers to whom cases have been referred.
Shortly after the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims opened its doors in 1989, it realized it had a problem. The Court was one created without antecedent. Because judicial review of the government’s decisions on veterans benefits claims had, prior to the Court’s creation, been barred by statute, and because there was a criminal sanction for charging an applicant for veterans benefits more than $10, very few lawyers were involved in representing veterans. As a result, in the early years of the Court, more than three-quarters of the appeals filed were submitted by self-represented appellants—a situation that was not good for the appellant, the Department of Veterans Affairs, or the efficiency of the Court. When the Court informed Congress of this situation, Congress was quick to act by providing funding through the Court’s budget for a pro bono program to be administered by the Legal Services Corporation. Through a national competitive bidding process, the plan proposed by the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program was adopted as the model. The Consortium has been the recipient of this grant since its inception in 1992.

Prior to joining the Court, I served on the Consortium’s Executive Board. This association was one of the professional activities of which I am most proud. The four organizations that comprise the Consortium—Disabled American Veterans, National Veterans Legal Services Program, Paralyzed Veterans of America, and The American Legion—as well as the chair of the board, who is a respected member of the private bar, have combined years of experience in the area of representing veterans before VA with the talents and expertise of lawyers who, while not initially familiar with the substantive law of veterans benefits, are skilled appellate advocates.

When I was on the Consortium’s Executive Board, I witnessed the dramatic impact qualified representation had on the lives of individual veterans and their families. The cases won by volunteer lawyers over the years have resulted in awards of benefits including medical care, disability compensation, pension benefits, and compensation for widows and orphans of veterans who die from causes related to their military service. More than 2,900 veterans have been represented and nearly 5,000 other veterans have received related services from members of the Consortium’s professional staff. Many lawyers who began as volunteers now represent veterans as part of their practice.*

Since I have been a member of the Court, I have witnessed the Court take advantage of the deep talent pool of volunteer lawyers when it issues an order asking the Consortium to inform the Court of the availability of counsel particularly qualified to address an issue as a friend of the Court. I have also had the good fortune to observe the highly professional legal education classes and the related materials provided by the Consortium to its new lawyer volunteers.

Those involved in maintaining this fine program—the members of Congress, the member Service Organizations, and the dedicated staff of the Consortium’s Outreach, Education, Case Evaluation and Placement, and Direct Representation components—should take great pride in their accomplishments and in their service to the Court and to America’s veterans.

Judge Lawrence B. Hagel
U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

* The numbers reflect the Program’s totals through the end of 2007. We have now passed 3,000.
INTRODUCTION

Following the establishment of the U.S. Court of Veterans Appeals in 1988, the Court found itself overwhelmed by an avalanche of unrepresented veterans who were struggling with the legal structures and procedures of the new Court. This led the Court to ask Congress for a program that could provide assistance to veterans seeking review of Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) claims. In May 1992, the Legal Services Corporation, acting for the Court, issued two solicitations for proposals (referred to as RFP “A” and “B”) to develop a program that would provide pro bono representation to appellants coming before the Court. In response to the initial solicitation, four veterans service organizations—The American Legion, the Disabled American Veterans, the National Veterans Legal Services Project (now National Veterans Legal Services Program), and Paralyzed Veterans of America—came together to create the Veterans Consortium (Consortium) and then won the grant to operate the Pro Bono Program (Program), which was established by RFP “A.”

The Consortium was formed as an umbrella program to evaluate appeals of decisions of the Board of Veterans’ Appeals that had been taken to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and to recruit and train qualified lawyers who would volunteer their services to represent appellants before that Court. Under RFP “B,” the Program solicited proposals from organizations already providing representation to veterans to expand existing programs to aid more veterans and other Department of Veterans Affairs claimants.

Today, the Pro Bono Program continues to assist America’s veterans in obtaining meaningful judicial review of adverse decisions of the Board of Veterans’ Appeals, and this report highlights the successes of fiscal year 2008. We believe that throughout the Program’s history we have met the challenges involved in providing effective representation for our nation’s veterans and that we continue to meet that challenge every day. What follows is more than just the report of our 16th year of operations; it is also a testament to our nation’s continuing commitment to those men and women who have answered America’s call to service and to those members of the legal profession who donate their time and talents on their behalf.

1. The authorizing legislation for the Pro Bono Program is Pub.L. No. 102-229, 105 Stat. 1710 (1991). Pub.L. No. 102-229 states in relevant part: “... for the purpose of providing financial assistance (through grant or contract...) to facilitate the furnishing of legal or other assistance, without charge, to veterans and other persons who are unable to afford the cost of legal representation in connection with decisions to which section 7252(a) of title 38, United States Code, may apply, or with other proceedings in the Court, through a Program that furnishes case screening and referral, training and education for attorney and related personnel, and encouragement and facilitation of pro bono representation by members of the bar and law school clinical and other appropriate Programs, such as veterans service organizations, and through defraying expenses incurred in providing representation to such persons....”
EXECUTIVE BOARD

The Veterans Consortium Executive Board consists of five voting members and two invited guests, who represent the Court and the Legal Services Corporation, respectively. The Executive Board’s members are responsible for establishing and monitoring the activities of the Program’s operational components. Each of the four veterans service organizations that comprise the consortium have a voting representative on the Board, while the fifth voting member (and the current chairman) is a representative of the private bar. The Executive Board oversees the Program’s two component directors, who are, in turn, responsible for implementing established policies, complying with the terms of the Program’s federal grant, and efficiently operating their respective components within a budget approved by the Executive Board and by the Legal Services Corporation.

The Executive Board met 12 times during 2008, including three conference calls, rotating between the offices of the Consortium’s constituent organizations. All personnel and other expenses connected with activities of the Executive Board were donated by the organizations with which the Board members are affiliated.

OUTREACH COMPONENT

The Outreach Component is responsible for publicizing the Pro Bono Program and for recruiting volunteer lawyers to represent appellants before the Court. In 2008, 146 lawyers were recruited into the Program. Recruitment in 2009 is expected to increase; the number will depend on the needs of the Case Evaluation and Placement Component.

Most of the lawyers recruited by the Program practice in the greater Washington, D.C., metropolitan area. However, in 2008 the Pro Bono Program continued an initiative begun years ago to actively recruit lawyers outside the Washington, DC, metropolitan area. Lawyers actually representing veterans through the Program came from 34 jurisdictions in 2008:

Arizona
California
Colorado
Connecticut
Delaware
District of Columbia
Florida
Georgia
Idaho
Indiana
Iowa
Kansas
Louisiana
Maryland
Massachusetts
Michigan
Minnesota
Missouri
New Jersey
New York
North Carolina
Ohio
Oklahoma
Oregon
Pennsylvania
Rhode Island
South Carolina
Tennessee
Texas
Utah
Vermont
Virginia
Washington
Wisconsin

BY THE NUMBERS

In 16 years, Pro Bono Program personnel have contacted more than 20,000 veterans who have filed a pro se appeal at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. More than 8,600 of those who were contacted sought assistance, and more than 3,100 have been assigned an attorney to assist them with their appeal.

Over the past 16 years, the Pro Bono Program has placed more than 3,000 cases with Program attorneys, including 233 in 2008. The program fully evaluated 820 cases in 2008, and 28 percent of evaluated cases were found to have one or more legal issues warranting placement with a lawyer through the program.

In 2008, volunteer attorneys contributed their services in the amount of $4,311,630, bringing the 16-year total of donated legal services to more than $40 million, which is probably a conservative computation. Add to that the donated services of Consortium members, which totaled $249,474 in the past year and almost $4.5 million over the history of the Program, the Pro Bono Program has provided more than $45 million of services for the men and women who have served their country.
EDUCATION COMPONENT

The Education Component trains volunteer lawyers and provides educational materials and mentoring lawyers for each volunteer who accepts a referral from the Program. This training is essential in helping a pro bono lawyer gain sufficient expertise to effectively represent an appellant before the Court.

Since the Program began in 1992, more than 2,900 lawyers and paralegal representatives have attended the Program’s training classes. In 2008, the Program held two eight-hour training classes at the D.C. Bar for new recruits, a special session in Washington, D.C., for personnel of the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, as well as sessions in San Diego and Houston. These programs were scheduled with an eye toward the projected needs of the Case Evaluation and Placement Component; 146 new lawyers attended these introductory classes.

Volunteer lawyers continue to receive instructional assistance after they accept a case referral from the Program. Each volunteer is provided with the current year’s edition of The Veterans Benefits Manual. This is a compendium of veterans law issues and includes a copy of current federal veterans law statutes, rules, and regulations. This material is provided in both paperback and CD-ROM format and includes an online veterans law research capability through the publisher (LexisNexis). The Program also provides subscriptions to two veterans law journals. The Program also provides a subscription to The Veterans Advocate, published by the National Veterans Legal Services Program.

The Consortium also assigns a mentor to each volunteer lawyer. When advice or assistance is sought by pro bono counsel, mentoring services are provided on a part-time basis. In 2008 the Disabled American Veterans provided two mentors; National Veterans Legal Services Program provided three mentors; and Paralyzed Veterans of America provided three. All of these mentoring services were provided at no cost to the Program. Beyond mentoring, the Consortium, when requested, also provided moot court practice sessions for lawyers with oral arguments scheduled before the Court, and for lawyers who voluntarily pursued an appeal in a Program case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit. Under Program guidelines, mentors may also provide assistance to volunteer lawyers who continue to represent appellants after their cases have been remanded by the Court to the Board of Veterans’ Appeals.

CASE EVALUATION AND PLACEMENT COMPONENT

The Case Evaluation and Placement Component is the full-time office of the Pro Bono Program. As its name implies, this component receives requests for assistance from unrepresented appellants, confirms each appellant’s financial eligibility for Program services, and evaluates each appellant’s case for merit and possible referral to a lawyer participating in the Pro Bono Program. If one or more issues warranting placement can be identified in the evaluation process, that appellant is matched with a lawyer. This process takes into account such factors as the issue(s) involved in the appeal, the complexity of the case, the experience of the lawyer, potential language issues, and, when possible, the geographical locations of the appellant and the lawyer.
In 2008 there were some 233 cases that met Program eligibility requirements and were placed with a volunteer or Direct Representation Component (DRC) lawyer at no cost to the appellant or were identified as substantially likely to be remanded by the Court under the provisions of the Veterans Claims Assistance Act of 2000. These cases brought the 16-year total for the Program to almost 2,900 placed cases.

In addition to conducting the initial eligibility screening, a veterans’ law specialist prepares a comprehensive case-evaluation memorandum that serves as a guide for placement and a suggested road map for the litigation of the case by the volunteer or direct representation component lawyer. The Case Evaluation and Placement Component also monitors the progress of every evaluated case, whether it is placed with a Program lawyer or not, as a quality control measure. The Case Evaluation and Placement Component is also responsible for the maintaining the Program’s Web site, www.vetsprobono.org.

DIRECT REPRESENTATION COMPONENT

Through 1998 the Pro Bono Program operated under two separate grants of funds from the Legal Services Corporation. The principal grant (the “A” grant) provided for the costs of the three operational components described above; the other (the “B” grant) involved the provision of funds directly to one or more organizations that committed themselves to provide counsel for a specified number of cases placed by the Program.

Beginning in 1999, the “A” and “B” grants were merged into a single grant, and the function formerly performed by the “B” grant was renamed the Direct Representation Component (DRC). The director of Case Evaluation and Placement administers cases assigned to the DRC.

The DRC has given the Program the flexibility necessary to provide adequate and timely representation in unique or complicated cases or in cases that require immediate intervention by a lawyer to adequately protect an appellant’s interests. In 2004 the DRC grant was awarded to Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA). Under the terms of the grant, PVA agreed to accept up to 24 cases from the Program and accepted 21 cases in 2008.

As throughout the history of the Program, every appellant meeting Program eligibility requirements (and some who did not) received some form of legal assistance or advice at no cost. In 2008, 574 veterans who were not provided with counsel still received some form of legal advice. This year the Program surpassed 5,300 in the number of situations in which a veteran was not assigned a Program attorney but still received some form of assistance related to his or her claim and appeal.

The Program trained 146 lawyers in 2008, bringing the 16-year total to more than 2,900 volunteer attorneys who stepped forward for this nation’s heroes. In the years past, this was done at the cost of $1,128.65 per attorney. Those attorneys had been recruited at the cost of $104 per lawyer.

During 2008, law firms provided 62 percent of the attorneys (119) dealing with active cases and 72 private practitioners also stepped forward. Of these attorneys and their predecessors, more than 95 percent have volunteered to take a subsequent case.
Private Bar

Jeffrey A. Stonerock, Esq., currently serving as chairman of the Executive Board, is a partner in the law firm of Baker Botts L.L.P. in Washington, D.C. He is a graduate of the United States Military Academy (1979) and Duke Law School (1984), and he received his LLM from the Judge Advocate General’s School of the Army (1989).

Mr. Stonerock began his Army career as a Field Artillery officer before becoming a member of the Judge Advocate General’s Corps. Among his assignments before leaving active duty in 1992 were tours with the 82nd Airborne Division and the Second Infantry Division in the Republic of Korea. He retired from the Army Reserve in 2001 as a lieutenant colonel.

Mr. Stonerock has for many years chaired his firm’s pro bono committee in its Washington, D.C., offices. A disabled veteran, Mr. Stonerock became personally involved with the Veterans Consortium as a volunteer attorney in 2000 and since then has handled several Veterans Consortium cases pro bono. Baker Botts has many other lawyers who participate in this program. A highly respected international lawyer, he heads his firm’s Korea practice group.

Paralyzed Veterans of America

William Mailander, Esq., is general counsel for the Paralyzed Veterans of America (Paralyzed Veterans). As the chief legal officer for Paralyzed Veterans, he provides legal advice to the officers, directors, and senior staff and manages the legal affairs of the corporation. He began his career at Paralyzed Veterans in 1992, when he was hired to primarily represent claimants before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims in those cases assigned to Paralyzed Veterans under the Direct Representation Component of the Pro Bono Program.

Mr. Mailander enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps following graduation from high school and served from 1976 to 1979. He received three meritorious promotions through the rank of corporal and was awarded the Navy Achievement Medal. He received a BA from New York University in 1984 and a JD from Temple University School of Law in 1988. He also received an MBA from Johns Hopkins University in 2001.

Following graduation from law school and before coming to Paralyzed Veterans, Mr. Mailander held positions as an attorney-advisor with the Board of Veterans’ Appeals, the Coast Guard Chief Counsel’s Office, and the Department of Veterans Affairs Office of the General Counsel.

Mr. Mailander is a member of the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Bar Association and the Federal Bar Association (FBA). He is the editor of the FBA Veterans Law Section newsletter. He is admitted to practice in the District of Columbia, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. He resides in Arlington, Virginia, with his wife, Rosalind.

The American Legion

Mr. Peter S. Gaytan began serving as director of The American Legion’s Veterans’ Affairs and Rehabilitation Division in September 2004 and assumed Executive Board responsibilities at that time. Prior to serving as director, he served as principal deputy director of Veterans’ Affairs and Rehabilitation and deputy director of the Legislative Division.

Mr. Gaytan attended Wesley College in Dover, Delaware, where he earned a BA in political science. He is also a graduate of the Defense Information School, Fort Meade, Maryland, and earned a degree in public affairs from the Community College of the Air Force.

In 1991 he entered the U.S. Air Force. Following training at Lackland Air Force Base, Texas, and Keesler AFB, Mississippi, he served as military protocol liaison with the 436th Airlift Wing at Dover AFB, Delaware, where he worked with military, diplomatic, and congressional leaders. He coordinated all protocol requirements for NATO visits, repatriation ceremonies for the U.S. Army Rangers killed in Somalia, and the memorial ceremony for Commerce Secretary Ron Brown and the passengers of the T-43A that crashed in Bosnia. While on active duty, he also served as Honor Guard Training Flight NCOIC, where he provided final honors for more than 200 military funerals. He also served six years with the 512th Airlift Wing, U.S. Air Force Reserve as a public affairs specialist.

During his military service, Mr. Gaytan received the Air Force Commendation Medal, Air Force Achievement Medal, Good Conduct Medal, and the Air Force Outstanding Unit Ribbon. Originally from Norfolk, Virginia, he and his wife, Kimberly, and twins, Maria and Sebastian, reside in Washington, D.C.
Landen E. Overby, a disabled veteran of the U.S. Navy, is senior appellate counsel of the Disabled American Veterans’ (DAV) Judicial Appeals Office. DAV’s Judicial Appeals Office represents veterans and their dependents before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (Court) and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Mr. Overby began his career with DAV in October 1995 as a national service officer in the Chicago National Service Office. He was promoted in October 1999 to DAV’s National Appeals Office in Washington, D.C., as a national appeals officer. In April 2000, he was promoted to assistant supervisor of the National Appeals Office. Mr. Overby worked in that capacity until March 2002, at which time he began his training for admission to practice before the Court as a nonattorney practitioner. He was admitted to practice before the Court in July 2002.

Mr. Overby was promoted to appellate counsel in August 2002 and remained in that capacity until he assumed his current position in August 2005.

Roy E. Spicer-native of Clarksville, Tennessee, heads the Disabled American Veterans (DAV) National Appeals Office in Washington, D.C. where he supervises 14 National Appeals Officers and staff who represent appellants before the Board of Veterans Appeals. During his professional career, Mr. Spicer has served in positions with DAV in Louisville, Kentucky; Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania; Roanoke, Virginia; and St. Petersburg, Florida, as well as Washington. From December 1994 to August 1997 he served as Executive Assistant to the Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs before returning to DAV and the National Appeals Office.

A Vietnam veteran, Roy joined the Army in 1968 and saw combat as a Recon Team leader until serious combat wounds led to a disability retirement. He is the recipient of the Combat Infantryman Badge, two Purple Hearts, the Bronze Star with V device, the Army Commendation Medal with V device, the Vietnamese Cross of Gallantry with Silver Star and other personal and unit awards.

Mr. Spicer is admitted to the Bar of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims as a non-attorney practitioner. His accomplishments have been recognized by DAV at the Chapter, Department and national Levels and he had received honors from local, state and federal governments.

Ronald B. Abrams, Esq., is the joint executive director and director of training for the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP). He began his career in 1975 in the Philadelphia Regional Office of the Veterans Administration, serving first as an adjudicator and then as a member of the rating board. Mr. Abrams transferred to the VA Central Office in 1977, assuming duties as legal consultant to the Compensation and Pension (C&P) Service, where he was recognized as an expert in due process issues.

In that capacity, Mr. Abrams helped to draft the VA Adjudication Procedure Manual, M21-1. He also wrote and interpreted regulations and directives for VA staff and others, and he drafted and commented on legislation on VA’s behalf. Mr. Abrams also worked in and was in charge of the C&P quality review section. As part of his work for the VA Central Office, he conducted national training sessions in adjudication and due process for VA staff.

Since joining the NVLSP, Mr. Abrams has conducted more than 100 training sessions for veterans service organizations, state and county departments of veterans affairs, state bar associations, the Legal Services Corporation, the National Legal Aid and Defender Association, congressional caseworkers, and other veterans advocates. He has spoken on veterans law to meetings of the American Bar Association, the Federal Bar Association, and the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People.

Mr. Abrams is the editor of The Veterans Advocate, a quarterly publication on veterans law and advocacy; author of the Basic Training Course in Veterans Benefits; and a coauthor of the 2003 edition of The Veterans Benefit Manual: An Advocate’s Guide to Representing Veterans and Their Dependents.
Prior to joining the Court, Mr. Sklar served as senior advisor to the special counsel, at the U.S. Office of Special Counsel (OSC), where he provided advice on administrative and policy matters, including agency program initiatives, personnel, budget, procurement, and inter-governmental relations. He later served as associate special counsel for investigation and prosecution, supervising a team of investigators and attorneys in resolving federal employee complaints of whistle-blower retaliation and violations of the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act. He also established and directed the OSC’s Mediation Program and served as director of OSC’s EEO Program.

Mr. Sklar began his legal career at the National Treasury Employees Union, where, as associate general counsel for litigation, he supervised litigators in federal and state trial and appellate litigation of employment, contract, and civil rights matters.

Mr. Sklar, a graduate of Cornell University, earned his JD from Georgetown University. His past public service includes teaching for many years as an adjunct instructor for alternative dispute resolution, labor relations, and business law at Bowie State University and serving as a pro bono mediator in D.C. Superior Court.
CO-DIRECTORS OF THE CONSORTIUM

Director, Outreach and Education Components

Meg Bartley, Esq., is the director of Outreach and Education for the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program. A senior staff attorney at the National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP), Ms. Bartley is a graduate of the Pennsylvania State University (BA 1981, cum laude) and the Washington College of Law at American University (JD 1993, cum laude).

Ms. Bartley trains lawyers and non-lawyers in the area of veterans law. She is editor of the quarterly NVLSP publication *The Veterans Advocate: A Veterans Law and Advocacy Journal*, and she represents veterans and their dependents before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. She previously served as judicial clerk for the Honorable Jonathan R. Steinberg of the United States Court of Veterans Appeals (now the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims) from 1993–1994.

She is the author or a coauthor of numerous monographs and publications on veterans law, including *Veterans Benefits Manual* (Lexis Law Publishing); *The Elderlaw Portfolio Series: Veterans Benefits for the Elderly* (Little, Brown, 1996); *The Department of Veterans Affairs’ Obligations Toward Claimants: Analysis of the Veterans Claims Assistance Act of 2000* (Clearinghouse Review, July–August 2001); and *Consideration of Pain and Other Factors in Rating VA Disabilities* (Clearinghouse Review, July–August 1996).

Director, Case Evaluation and Placement Component

Brian D. Robertson, Esq., director, Case Evaluation and Placement Component, is an attorney with the Paralyzed Veterans of America. He became the director of the Component in October 1994, after a brief period as its deputy director. He was a career Naval officer, retiring after 23 years of service, including more than 18 years as a Navy judge advocate.

Mr. Robertson is a 1971 graduate of the U.S. Naval Academy and a 1976 graduate of the University of Maryland School of Law. He also has an MA from the University of Southern California. He is past chair of the Veterans Law Section of the Federal Bar Association and serves as president-elect of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims Bar Association.
My attorney was very cooperative and gave all the time I required. She always contacted me when ever she thought it was necessary.

I was very depressed with the red tape of the VA after three years of more stress and disappointment. It is because of the [Pro Bono Program] that I now have the hope and encouragement for a successful conclusion of my case.

Thank you kindly and bless you one and all for your efforts for me and all the veterans you have assisted and given such caring—above and beyond the call of duty.

World War II veteran
Nevada

This is an excellent program. It would be a wonderful thing if the veterans had a program like this to represent them in front of the veterans’ board. The organizations that help the veterans at the board do a good job but most are not lawyers which looks at the appeal in a different light. They find things and word things that most of us would have never thought of. Thanks for the good job that you do for veterans. Keep up the good work. God bless.

Guardian of Vietnam era veteran
South Carolina
I would recommend the Pro Bono Program to other veterans who are indigent as myself. Without this Program a lot of veterans wouldn’t know what to do. I’m very pleased with the assistance I received from (my attorney) and the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program. Thank you all kindly, and may God bless you.

Vietnam veteran
Texas

I really do thank you for all the help you have given me…I worked really hard for a long time, but when it came to getting a lawyer I had no money to hire one. My daughter found you on the Internet and with your help found (my lawyer). Thank you again for all your help.

Widow of World War II veteran
Arkansas

I believe that the job done [by my attorney] was excellent. You have helped others as well as myself…I know the job you did for me was great so I know you do excellent for all who request your help. May God bless you.

Widow of Cold War era veteran
South Carolina
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  Allison Fulton

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Moore & Hansen
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  Michael C. Griffen

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Murnane & Donahue, LLC
  Andrew Murnane

Nathan, Bremer, Dumm & Myers, P.C.
  Allison R. Ailer

National Veterans Legal Services Program
  Louis George

Nelson Mullins Riley & Scarborough LLP
  Michael S. Cashman
  Anthony C. Hayes

Niedweske Barber P.C.
  Linda J. Niedweske

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  Robert C. Mattson

Ogletree, Deakins, Nash, Smoak & Stewart, P.C.
  Douglas J. Rosinski

O’Melveny & Myers
  Melanie Bradley

O’Melveny & Myers
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  Michael A. Sink
  Lauren Sliger
  James F. Williams
  W. Hartmann Young

Perkins Coie Brown & Bain, P.A.
  Dan L. Bagatell NVLSP
  Mark E. Strickland

Peterson, & Fishman
  Fay E. Fishman

Phillips & Cohen LLP
  Timothy P. McCormack

Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman
  Adam R. Hess

Porter, Wright, Morris & Arthur
  Marc L. Fleischauer

Quarles & Brady LLP
  James W. Richgels

Reed Smith LLP
  Andrew J. Morrison
  Edward T. Savage

Rees Broome & Diaz
  Todd A. Sinkins

Riser Adkisson LLP
  Christopher M. Riser

Robinson & Cole LLP
  Christopher F. Girard
  David E. Ross

Ropes & Gray
  David M. Ellis
  Sandra C. George
  Rebecca K. Schendel Norris
  Stacy A. Tromble

Sandler, Reiff & Young, PC
  John Young

Shearman & Sterling
  Terence Gilroy

Shearman & Sterling LLP
  Jordan A. Costa

Shepbd Mullin Richter & Hampton LLP
  Bethany R. Hollister

Sidley Austin Brown & Wood LLP
  Richard E. Young

Silverman, Silverman & Seligman
  Lisa Tummineli

Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP
  Daniel Bolia
  Lisa M. Poursine

Swepe-toe & Johnson
  Kathryn J. Gainey
  Samuel T. Perkins

Stoel Rives LLP
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Sullivan Law Office, PC
  Carol S. Sullivan

Sussman Shapiro
  Matthew E. Auger

Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan
  David I. Adelman

Tourkow, Crell, Rosenblatt & Johnston
  Megan Burzynch

Troutman Sanders, L.L.P.
  Sandra L. Brown
  Andrew M. Jamieson

Tucker & Luden, P.A.
  John V. Tucker

Venable LLP
  Lisa M. Kattan

Vinson & Elkins L.L.P.
  Adrienne Goins
  James W. Sargent
  Darin W. Schultz
  Mara Zimmerman

Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease, L.L.P.
  Philip F. Downey
  Mark A. Knuve

Wachtel & Masyr, LLP
  Steven J. Cohen

Wayne Wright, LLP
  Brent L. Klender

Weisel Xides & Foerster, LLP
  John S. Kamarados (PA/WV)

Wharton, Levin, Ehrmantraut, & Klein
  Paul M. D’Amore
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Robert D. M. Allen
David L. Allred
Janan D. Andary-Nasr
John M. Andreini
Thomas E. Andrews
William S. Aramony
Charles R. Ashurst
Lisa Avery
William “Stan” S. Bennett
William Blagogee
Deanne L. Bonner
Christopher J. Boyle
James A. Breslin
Richmond J. Brownson
Susan D. Bullard
W. Lewis Burke
Barbara Burns Harris
Lynn F. Cafiso
John F. Cameron
Christopher G. Carlson
Lionel J. Castro
William S. Coffman, Jr.
Greg S. Collett
Sara E. Collier
Neal A. Connors
Jonathan W. Crisp
Aimee J. Davis
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Jennifer Devor
Michael W. Dolan
Randy Drewett
Patricia M. Dunn
Aaron G. Durden
Paul B. Eaglin
Thomas A. Faltens
Robert C. Farley
Mark A. Feigenbaum
Jessica E. Feingold
Lewis C. Fichera
Fennie Fiddler
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Charles J. Filardi, Jr.
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Michele M. Florack
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Sandra M. Freney
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Jeannine Quijije
Thomas J. Reed
Mark B. Replogle
Rochelle E. Richardson
Steven K. Robison
Kathlyne M. Rog
John Rosinski
Tate Russack
Diane S. Sapp
Peter J. Sebekos
Stephen J. Selden
Timothy Sherwood
Daniel J. Smith
Robert M Sneed
Caleb I. Solomon
T. Edmund Spinks
David A. Standridge, Jr.
Bart Stichman
Edward P. Tiffey
Michael Toomey
Brian J. Tucker
Timothy J. Vrana
Emily Walger
Jonathan Walsh
Burton J. Waltman
Hillary A. Wandler
Dawn M. Weekly
Daniel Wemhoff
Joseph M. Werner, Jr.
Christopher Whitcomb
Ann C. Wilcox
Jeanine T. Winfrey
Paul Wolf
Harold W. Youmans
FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
JANUARY 1, 2008–DECEMBER 31, 2008
### TABLE A: CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF INCOME & EXPENSES (AUDITED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2008 Grant Funds Authorized by Congress</td>
<td>$1,210,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Funds Retained by Legal Services Corporation (LSC)</td>
<td>$0.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Funds Released to Program by LSC</td>
<td>$1,210,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Grant Funds Available from 2007 Grant Year</td>
<td>$337,713.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2008 Grant Funds Available</td>
<td>$1,547,713.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Earned on 2007 Grant Year Funds</td>
<td>$3,397.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Earned on 2008 Grant Year Funds</td>
<td>$10,252.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Funds Available in Grant Year 2008</td>
<td>$1,561,362.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Program Expenses in 2008</td>
<td>$1,293,158.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Excess of Total Grant Funds over Expenses</td>
<td>$268,040.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>


b. This amount does not include any monetary sums that were donated to the Program by law firms, veterans, or from other sources. These donated funds are detailed in a separate schedule and are not commingled with grant funds received from the Legal Services Corporation.

### TABLE B: CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF DONATED FUNDS & SERVICES (UNAUDITED)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Reported/Estimated Organizational Contributions</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>The American Legion</td>
<td>$21,200.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled American Veterans</td>
<td>$6,599.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Veterans Legal Services Program</td>
<td>$16,962.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paralyzed Veterans of America</td>
<td>$204,713.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker Botts L.L.P.</td>
<td>$125,068.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Value of Organizational Contributions</td>
<td>$374,542.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Value of Nonorganizational Contributions</td>
<td>$4,325,830.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Program Donated Funds and Services</td>
<td>$4,700,372.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
In addition to grant funds, all of the participating organizations in the Consortium donated services and/or goods to the Program. These donated goods and services are detailed in separate tables.

All Executive Board member personnel costs and other costs associated with activities of the Executive Board were donated. The Executive Board met 12 times during the grant year (and several Executive Board members also attended additional meetings to prepare and review financial statements and annual budget submissions). The average Executive Board meeting length was two hours.

### TABLE C: STATEMENT OF GRANT INCOME & EXPENSES (AUDITED)

#### Revenue
- Grant Funds Carried Forward (Prior Years) $337,713.00
- 2007 Grant Funds Made Available by LSC $1,210,000.00
- Interest Earned on Prior Grant Year Funds $3,397.00
- Investment Income on Current Year Funds $10,252.00
- **Total Funds Available in Grant Year 2007** $1,561,362.00

#### Expenses

**Program Services**
- Executive Board $0.00
- Case Evaluation and Placement Component $1,017,274.00
- Outreach Component $14,002.00
- Education Component $151,896.00
- Direct Representation Component $60,577.00
- **Total Program Services Expenses** $1,243,749.00

**General and Administrative**
- Executive Board $0.00
- Case Evaluation and Placement Component $35,240.00
- Outreach Component $1,283.00
- Education Component $12,886.00
- Direct Representation Component $0.00
- **Total General and Administrative Expenses** $49,409.00

**Total 2007 Grant Expenses** $1,293,158.00

**Excess of Total Grant Funds over Expenses** $268,204.00

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a. In addition to grant funds, all of the participating organizations in the Consortium donated services and/or goods to the Program. These donated goods and services are detailed in separate tables.

b. All Executive Board member personnel costs and other costs associated with activities of the Executive Board were donated. The Executive Board met 12 times during the grant year (and several Executive Board members also attended additional meetings to prepare and review financial statements and annual budget submissions). The average Executive Board meeting length was two hours.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TABLE D: CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE PROGRAM (UNAUDITED)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Organizational Contributions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The American Legion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unreimbursed Personnel Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total American Legion Contributions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Disabled American Veterans</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unreimbursed Personnel Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total DAV Contributions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>National Veterans Legal Services Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>NVLSP Publications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unreimbursed General Administrative Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unreimbursed Personnel Expenses</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total NVLSP Contributions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Paralyzed Veterans of America</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unreimbursed Support for the Grant:</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Value of Donated Mentoring Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Partial Cost of Production of 2007 Annual Report</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Assistance to CEIP Component</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unreimbursed Support for Direct Representation Component (DRC)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unreimbursed Support for Executive Board</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total PVA Contributions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Baker Botts, LLP</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Organizational Contributions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonorganizational Contributions</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Pro Bono Legal Services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Mentor Services – Providence, RI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Services – D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Services – Houston, Texas</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donated Services – San Diego, California</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Value of Nonorganizational Contributions</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Donated Funds and Services</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
a. The American Legion provided an experienced veterans law specialist part-time to the Case Evaluation and Placement Component at no cost to the grant. The value of this service was not reported at the request of The American Legion but is conservatively estimated at $21,000 per year (by comparison to comparable services billed to the grant).

b. Includes the value of mentoring time and time spent in preparing for and attending Executive Board meetings and functions; and the cost of hosting Executive Board meetings.

c. Value of donated time of NVLSP representative performing and hosting Executive Board functions.

d. Services provided to Case Evaluation and Placement Component and the PVA employees assigned at the component.

e. Includes the value of time and services provided to Executive Board, including the cost of hosting Board meetings.

f. Includes the value of donated services of Board Chairman and firm’s legislative assistant.


g. Does not include time spent in Executive Board activities by Legal Services Corporation or Court personnel, nor expenses related to Court personnel traveling to and assisting in Program training events.

h. This figure was calculated by multiplying the number of cases placed with pro bono lawyers by the average number of hours for a pro bono lawyer to complete a case, as reported by pro bono lawyers completing cases in 2008, and multiplying that product by the 2008 Laffey Matrix hourly rate for a private lawyer with 4–7 years’ experience ($342.00 hour).

i. Training classes are conducted by the Education Component twice a year in Washington, D.C., through the auspices of the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program. Incidental costs related to training (such as mailings, printing of announcements, the fair market value of classroom space, food and beverages, and personnel costs) are all donated by the D.C. Bar Pro Bono Program to the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program.

j. The Program conducted a training classes for firms in Houston, Texas (Baker Botts LLP) and San Diego, California (Fish & Richardson). The figure reflects the donations of the listed firms in providing accommodations and refreshments for the training sessions.
Each of the constituent veterans’ service organizations, as well as the representative of the private bar chairing the Executive Board, makes various contributions to the Program during the course of the year. The Program has also received in-kind contributions from the District of Columbia Bar Pro Bono Program. Those contributions are set forth in the Program’s financial statement for 2007. Several private law firms have contributed portions of fees received under the Equal Access to Justice Act in pro bono cases handled by those firms through the Program. The principal private cash donations received by the Program through December 31, 2008, include:

**TABLE E: 2008 PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS & EXPENSES**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Contribution</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kirkland &amp; Ellis Foundation</td>
<td>$9,416.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. Jeffrey A. Stonerock</td>
<td>$1,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patton Boggs, LLP</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mr. &amp; Mrs. William S. Mailander</td>
<td>$500.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>United Way*</td>
<td>$614.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Private Contributions</strong></td>
<td><strong>$14,530.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Donor details on file

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expense Description</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Isbell Intern–Housing Expense (J. Vale)</td>
<td>$3,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation–Veterans Law Clinic, Widener University School of Law</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Donation–Marshall-Wythe School of Law</td>
<td>$5,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total Expenses Paid</strong></td>
<td><strong>$13,000.00</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**TABLE F: 2007 SUMMARY OF PRIVATE CONTRIBUTIONS (AUDITED)**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Financial Line Item</th>
<th>Amount</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Contributions Available as of 1/1/2008 (Unaudited)</td>
<td>$47,233.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contribution Received as of 1/1–12/31/2008</td>
<td>$14,530.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Interest Earned 1/1–12/31/2008</td>
<td>$1,157.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Contributions/Interest</td>
<td>$62,920.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Expenses Paid from Contributions 1/1–12/31/2008</td>
<td>$13,000.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Contributions Available as of 12/31/2008</td>
<td>$49,920.00</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Honor to the soldier and sailor everywhere, who bravely bears his country’s cause.

Honor also to the citizen who cares for his brother in the field...

—Abraham Lincoln
Letter to George Opdyke and others, December 2, 1863
www.vetsprobono.org

Outreach and Education
1600 K Street, N.W.
Suite 500
Washington, DC 20006
Phone: (202) 265-8305
Fax: (202) 328-0063
Email: probonoprogram@nvlsp.org

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Email: mail@vetsprobono.org