



THE VETERANS CONSORTIUM
PRO BONO PROGRAM[®] 1992 2017



2016 Annual Report



W

We believe
that our veterans in need
our nation's defenders
deserve the care, benefits,
and compensation
they were promised
and the best legal services,
free of charge,
to meet their challenges.

#theyfoughtforus

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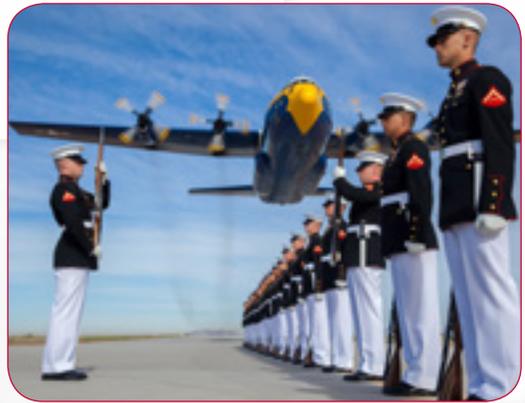


2016 ANNUAL REPORT

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Portrait of an
American Hero



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As we close the books on another successful year of service to our United States veterans, The Veterans Consortium prepares to embark on its 25th anniversary year. It is a time of celebration, indeed, a time to look forward, but especially it is a time for reflection. Our belief statement (located on the inside cover of this annual report) so accurately depicts what we will be celebrating: 25 years of service to our veterans—our nation's defenders. Not only will we be honoring those men and women who have served our country, but the many dedicated men and women who have joined our cause to provide the best legal services, free of charge, to ensure that our veterans receive the care, benefits, and compensation they were promised.

While we anticipate the upcoming year, it is important to take a moment to share with you the accomplishments of the past year. This Annual Report of The Veterans Consortium describes the strength and value of the services the Consortium provides to those in need worldwide, and the profound difference each member of the Consortium team makes in the lives of the veterans we serve and their communities.

Our 2016 Case Stories Project includes the thrilling conclusion to one veteran's hard-fought journey to prove he should receive the care, benefits, and compensation he deserved. Joe Trout's story was originally highlighted



in our 2015 Case Stories Project. Please take the time to read this update, or one of the other cases presented in this annual report. We hope it will help you to better understand the challenges faced by our veterans, and how hard our volunteers work to achieve positive results on their behalf.

As we prepare for our next 25 years of service to veterans and their loved ones, we stand ready to serve all those who have taken part in the American experience from WWII to Korea, the Cold War and the Vietnam-era, and from the first Gulf War to, most recently, Iraq and Afghanistan.

We look forward with great anticipation to the coming year—our Silver Anniversary—as a time for the Consortium to share its compelling story of the past 25 years, but more importantly we see it as an opportunity to celebrate the great work that is still to come. Please join us by volunteering, collaborating as a mission partner, becoming a donor, or helping us communicate our outstanding track record of delivering success for America's veterans in need by providing the highest quality pro bono professional services to meet their challenges.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Ann Gilleece". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Mary Ann Gilleece, Esq.
Chairman

— SINCE 1992 —



THE VETERANS CONSORTIUM
PRO BONO PROGRAM® 1992 2017



 ★ **Handled**
>41,000 legal requests from veterans
and their loved ones

 ★ **Won 3,659**
cases in court for deserving clients—
an **82%** lifetime success rate

 ★ **Value** of donated
attorney services **\$94M**

 ★ **Operated**
a **helpline**
that provides
valuable legal information

★ **Recruited and trained**
3,932 volunteers

FROM OUR EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

I offer my heartfelt thanks to our extremely diligent Executive Board and skilled staff who serve side-by-side with veterans service officers and our mission partners to support our specially-trained and highly successful National Volunteer Corps. These volunteers never fail to impress with their ability to embrace our mission and provide pro bono services with the attention, enthusiasm, rigor and care as if each veteran were the only one being served. It is a true privilege to work with such a talented group.



included kicking off our Senior Fellows Project, and launching our TVC Discharge Upgrade ProgramSM to provide national pro bono legal representation to veterans with Other Than Honorable discharges for conduct related to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) and traumatic brain injuries (TBI).

In the upcoming Silver Anniversary year, we mark the quarter-century milestone of the federal Pro Bono Program and the concurrent 25th birthday of The Veterans Consortium. This major occasion will be honored in many ways, but most especially with an evening of celebration on October 4, 2017—we hope to see you there! As we look to the coming year, we will recognize this momentous accomplishment through Celebration of Pro Bono Service activities and events to show appreciation for the many stakeholders: law firms, corporate legal teams, volunteer attorneys and pro bono professionals; veterans service officers and Veterans Service Organizations; law students, professors, and veterans law clinics; mission partners and supporters; donors and friends of The Veterans Consortium across the country.

During the past year, The Veterans Consortium continued to help veterans in need and their families, caregivers, and survivors by providing the best legal services free of charge to meet their challenges. With the support of the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, Legal Services Corporation, and our Executive Board we invested this year in our mission infrastructure and technology to enhance our capability and capacity to meet the current and emerging needs of our veterans. A major technology improvement was the addition of the Pro Bono Net web platform, that provides an improved website for our clients and attorneys, including a secure “cases tool” for our volunteers to review case summaries and ask to take a particular case. Another enhancement was our deployment of a web tool for veterans to more easily submit their appeals forms to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. These new tools, plus upgraded hardware, storage and backup capabilities, have positioned us for more effective and efficient operations while providing the ability to scale to meet growing demand.

As you will read in the upcoming pages, we held several Pop-Up Legal Clinics as a new part of our TVC Legal Scholars ProgramSM, designed to support veterans outreach and law student clinical programs.

This initiative included the first annual TVC Legal MusterSM, composed of three veterans pro bono legal clinics operating simultaneously in different areas around our nation’s capital. Other initiatives this year

Finally, I want to again thank our more than 4,000 volunteers who have served veterans in nearly 5,000 federal appellate cases to date, creating a winning record that would be the pride of any legal aid organization. With thousands of wins at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the Supreme Court, our long history of success has demonstrated that we can and do follow through to achieve success for our veterans. We look forward to celebrating with you, and to continuing our shared mission to serve veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

Sincerely,

Edmund M. Glabus
Executive Director

profile

CHIEF JUDGE ROBERT N. DAVIS

“I think veterans would be in very different place without the Consortium’s Pro Bono Program available.”

CHIEF JUDGE ROBERT N. DAVIS



Chief Judge Robert N. Davis’ personal involvement with the military began when he joined the Navy Reserve after college at the University of Hartford and law school at Georgetown. Although his father had been in the Army, and Davis himself had a draft number during the Vietnam conflict, by the time the draft ended in 1973, “I had not had the chance to serve my country,” he says, “and it left a void in my life, not doing that. I saw it as a responsibility.”

He continued to serve in the Navy Reserve throughout decades of teaching, first at University of Mississippi School of Law, where he was a tenured full professor, to just before his judicial appointment, as a tenured professor at Stetson University College of Law, Gulfport, Florida. (Chief Judge Davis also has held teaching positions at the University of South Florida, Georgetown University Law Center, the University of Memphis, and Washington and Lee University, as well as lecturing and teaching at programs in the United States, Europe, and Africa.)

Davis had just started teaching at Stetson when the 9/11 attacks took place. He vividly recalls, “It was a beautiful fall day, sunny and crisp. I was in my office at the time, someone had the TV on. I remember I went from crying to being very angry at the people responsible—I then wanted to go out and catch them and punish them.” In the aftermath, Davis was recalled to active duty and assigned to the Joint Intelligence Directorate at nearby MacDill Air Force Base in October 2001. For the next “crazy” year, he worked the third (6 p.m. to 6 a.m.) shift at MacDill, caught a few hours’ sleep, then went to teach. Despite his fractured work life, his efforts were rewarded: In November, he received full tenure at Stetson, months earlier than usual. “I think they recognized the work I was doing plus the military commitment,” he says.

Returning to civilian life, “I was sensitive to the fact I would be a veteran,” Davis recalls, “but I really had not been involved at all with the veterans legal structure.” When he got the call from the White House asking him to consider joining the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, “that was the first time I knew about it, except that it was a brand new appellate court, created in 1988 by [President] Reagan.” As for why he was being tapped for the honor, he decided that it had to be his wealth of experience and background in administrative and national security law, “I had the academic background and military background,” he says.

Although reluctant to leave Stetson and Florida, Davis decided to at least put his papers in. “A lot of folks had Capitol Hill experience,” he says. “I had nothing like that—I was totally objective when

it came to veterans benefits.” That was in 2003; Davis was confirmed by the Senate in 2004 and assumed his place on the bench in 2005.

Only after joining the Court did Davis learn about The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program. “I remember the subject came up during the interview process, but I previously had no contact with the Program.” But Davis quickly noticed that the percentage of pro se cases before the Court was decreasing, which suggested to him that the veteran appellants had gotten more representation. “I talked to attorneys who were part of the Program, and saw how critical volunteer attorneys are for what we do. It was a great comfort to me to know there was a group to help veterans,” he adds.

Davis also credits the Pro Bono Program training programs for making a direct, significant improvement in the quality of representation. While on the bench, he has participated in a number of Consortium trainings, including a video. “There seems to be a large network that’s been developed,” he says, “and a real solid commitment by high-caliber firms and sole practitioners to work with veterans. Firms have to do pro bono work, and veterans need the representation.” In 2016, Davis became Chief Judge of the USCAVC. One of his goals is to meet more regularly with representatives of the Court’s constituent groups in an effort “to make us all improve our capacity to serve the groups.” The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program is among those he hopes to work with to achieve this aim: “I think veterans would be in very different place without the Consortium’s Pro Bono Program being available.”

case story

JOE TROUT

A LONG BATTLE LEADS TO BENEFITS AND COMPENSATION

Joe Trout was unbelievably surprised when he heard the news: he was approved by the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to receive medical benefits and compensation. It had been a long, hard fight for Trout, a Navy veteran, who never thought he'd hear those words.

"It's all due to Vince's efforts," says Trout, referring to his attorney, Vince Petrocelli, Esq., of Petrocelli Law in Boston, who took on the Trout case as his first as a pro bono attorney for The Veterans Consortium. "I had been told for years that I wasn't entitled to anything."

Trout's saga began in 1968, when he was serving in the U.S. Navy. Trout suffered from post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) as a result of a deployment, but it wasn't until 2006 that he began to fight for his medical benefits. Trout and Petrocelli fought all the way to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC), where they won a remand that was profiled in TVC's 2015 Annual Report. But the story continued.

Although Petrocelli had already invested his time and effort for Joe to win an appellate case in federal Court, he decided to continue his assistance to Trout beyond the CAVC and provide more pro bono services to effectuate the win—to get actual benefits awarded by the VA.

Staff attorneys at TVC continued to support Petrocelli, and after discussions they agreed an independent medical opinion would help. Through its Medical Review ProgramSM, TVC used donated funds from its supporters to provide Trout a grant for a "low bono" medical review (some medical professionals donate their services pro bono, while others give highly discounted "low bono" medical exams, tests, and reviews for veterans in need).

As a result, a psychologist confirmed in 2016 that Trout's PTSD stemmed from that deployment. That was the missing piece to provide a positive outcome for Trout. His compensable rate was boosted to 80 percent and with a rate of 70 percent or above, one can apply for total disability benefits, which Trout finally received. He was paid more than \$100,000 in compensation dating back to his original claim in 2006, and monthly income to sustain him going forward.



The U.S. Navy fleet oiler USS Manatee (AO-58) refueling the aircraft carrier USS Ticonderoga (CVA-14) off the U.S. West Coast on 15 July 1965. Trout served on the USS Ticonderoga.

“I had been told for years that I wasn’t entitled to anything.”

His years of unemployment had certainly taken a toll. "I was just by the skin of my teeth getting through," says Trout, who owned a home in his native Indiana that he sold. With that income, he qualified for a \$25,000 line of credit, which he slowly tapped into. "If it hadn't been for that, I'd have lost my house ages ago." When his payments from the VA finally came through, he had used up \$24,740 of the \$25,000. "It just builds character, I guess."

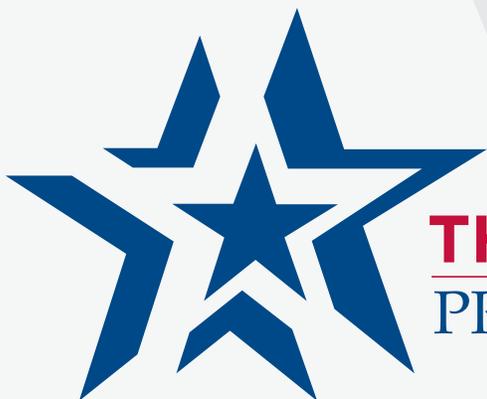
At the end of the day, the combination worked. Through Petrocelli's hard work and keen arguments, Trout's perseverance, and TVC's support, they prevailed at the VA. Trout was awarded a six-figure sum for retroactive disability benefits due, and future appropriate care plus monthly disability compensation. TVC is truly grateful for the fighting spirit of volunteers like Vince Petrocelli and his colleagues in our National Volunteer Corps, and to our donors who enable TVC's Medical Review ProgramSM to succeed.

OUR REPORT CARD SINCE 1992

Success Rate	82%
Veterans Requests Handled	>41,000
Cases Won	3,659
Attorneys Trained	3,932
Value of Donated Services	\$94M

Your gift helps ensure veterans and their loved ones receive the care, benefits, and compensation they earned by serving our country.

GIVE TODAY.



THE VETERANS CONSORTIUM PRO BONO PROGRAM® 1992 2017



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CFC# DONATION

We participate in donations through the Combined Federal Campaign program. We appreciate your considering us. CFC#: 95004

All donations are tax-deductible to the full extent of the law.

If you would like to make a donation in memory of a veteran that has served our Country, or a volunteer attorney that has given their time to serve veterans, please contact Ed.Glabus@vetsprobono.org.



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VIP: volunteer inspiring pro bono

PAUL SCHOENHARD, ESQ.

“I very much believe in my clients’ rights to receive the full scope of benefits. Any part I can have to push that through, I am happy to do.”

PAUL SCHOENHARD



As a law clerk at the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, Paul Schoenhard had the opportunity to work with many veterans’ cases, which are a large portion of the court’s docket. “I quickly appreciated that there was so much I didn’t know about veterans law,” says Schoenhard, 39, of Arlington, Virginia.

But what struck Schoenhard much more than how much he didn’t know, was the way his boss, Judge Anthony Gajarsa, handled the veterans’ cases. “He took the veterans’ benefits cases very seriously, very soberly and he encouraged the clerks to treat them similarly,” Schoenhard recalls.

Much of the time, veterans would show up without legal representation. “If there was an argument being made, even if not as effective as it would have been if presented by a lawyer, Judge Gajarsa would give all due consideration,” says Schoenhard, a graduate of Harvard Law School and Dartmouth College. “He made every attempt to discern valid arguments. I’m proud of my judge.”

Watching Judge Gajarsa softened Schoenhard’s heart for the plight of

veterans. But it was seeing how many veterans’ cases were not being handled properly prior to reaching the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit that spurred Schoenhard to action.

Schoenhard, a partner with McDermott, Will and Emery LLP, was selected as a TVC Volunteer Inspiring Pro Bono in 2016, due to his passionate commitment to serving veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors. Since first completing his training in Washington, D.C., and becoming an official member of The Veterans Consortium’s National Volunteer Corps in 2009, Schoenhard has successfully assisted veterans and their loved ones in 11 cases and he has overseen 20 others.

“I very much believe in my clients’ rights to receive the full scope of benefits,” Schoenhard says. “Any part I can have to push that through, I am happy to do.”

A highly skilled trial and appellate litigator representing clients in U.S. district courts, the International Trade Commission (ITC) and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, Schoenhard has managed high-profile

intellectual property disputes in the technology, media and telecommunications industries from inception through trial and/or settlement, including serving as lead counsel at trial and in appeals to the Federal Circuit. He spent much of his career with Ropes & Gray LLP, from summer associate to partner. He is an adjunct professor at American University Washington College of Law, and The University of New Hampshire School of Law. He authored the book, *Veterans Affairs Law*, in 2011.

Despite all this, Schoenhard, an Illinois native, says working pro bono veterans cases “is probably the most rewarding part of my practice.”

One particular case, one of the first Schoenhard took on for TVC, is never far from his thoughts. Ruth Frederick was a surviving veteran spouse. “We won at the Veterans Court [CAVC], receiving a significant precedential decision,” Schoenhard recalls. “The VA appealed the decision to the Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, where the decision was overturned. It was heartbreaking to win for a client and then to have to tell her that it had been taken away. But the thing that really stays with me: several months later, I received a card in the mail from Mrs. Frederick, which I still keep on my desk.

“Please forgive me for taking so long to write. I really appreciate all the effort and hard work you did in trying to secure DIC for me. May the very best be in your life for years to come.”

TVC National Volunteer Corps 2016 Honor Roll

Without the commitment of individual attorneys, law firms, corporate legal teams, and academic programs, The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program would be hard-pressed to carry out our mission to serve veterans and their loved ones as effectively as we do today. Time and again, the dedicated members of TVC's National Volunteer Corps have shown a willingness to devote their time, expertise, and resources to this worthy cause—not only as advocates before the Court, but also as strategic advisors, as mentors and guides to our other volunteers, and as generous financial benefactors to The Veterans Consortium.

We know from experience that our volunteers are drawn to the Pro Bono Program for the opportunity to put their legal expertise to work for those who have given so much for our country. We thank the many attorneys, firms, corporations, and law schools that have contributed to the success of the federal Pro Bono Program in 2016.

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Darin Schultz (DC)

Vorys, Sater, Seymour & Pease, L.L.P.

Lisa Babish Forbes (OH)

Mark Knueve (OH)

W. Gunn Consulting Services

Will Gunn (VA)

Wanee Law Firm (PA)

Rebecca Wanee (MS)

Ward & Smith, P.A.

Robert Crouse (NC)

West & Dunn

Travis West (WI)

West Virginia University College of Law

Jennifer Oliva (WV)

Weylie Centonzo, PLLC

Javier Centonzo (FL)

Whitaker Chalk Swindle & Schwartz, PLLC

Decker Cammack (TX)

White and Williams, LLP

Robert Walsh (PA)

Widener University Delaware Law School

Thomas Reed (DE)

William & Mary Law School

Aniela Szymanski (VA)

Wilson Sonsini Goodrich & Rosati

Adam Burrowbridge (DC)

Gina Cremona (CA)

Yuc Legal Services

Yvonne Carver (NC)

Zimberlin Law, LLC

Winona Zimberlin (CT)

Independent Counsel

Judith Albert (VA)

Francisca Araiza-Kasama (CA)

Travis Barrick (NV)

Allison Bauer (DC)

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Kelly Bohne (MD)

Sandra Booth (OH)

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Michael Sepanik (LA)

Ephraim Unell (MD)

Nicole Upshur (VA)

Rosa Vazquez (VA)

Robert Walsh (MI)

Johan Yavari (VA)

2016 Executive Board

“Vision and Support”

In 2016, our all-volunteer Executive Board consisted of seven voting directors—four of them veterans—who are responsible for establishing the vision, providing stewardship and governance, and supporting The Veterans Consortium as it delivers high-quality pro bono legal services effectively and efficiently. The Executive Board meetings include Invited Guests from the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the Legal Services Corporation.



Mary Ann Gilleece, Esq.
Chairman & Director
(The Private Bar)



Gary M. Butter, Esq.
Vice Chairman & Director
(Google, Inc.)



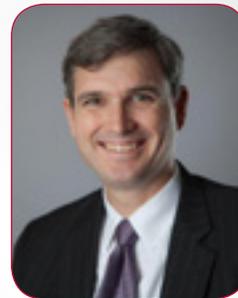
Leonard J. Selfon, Esq.
Secretary & Director
(Paralyzed Veterans of America)



Ronald B. Abrams, Esq.
Director
(National Veterans
Legal Services Program)



Roy E. Spicer
Director
(Disabled American Veterans)



William S. Foster, Jr., Esq.
Director
(Drinker Biddle & Reath LLP)



Louis J. Celli, Jr.
Director
(The American Legion)



Bill Levi, CPA, CGMA
Treasurer
(W. Levi and Associates)

2016 TVC Staff



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Manager, Client and Stakeholder Outreach



Judy Donegan, Esq.
Director, Litigation



Hattie Graham
Program Operations Specialist



Leigh Hillebrand
Client Services and Social Media Coordinator



Dr. Aaron Hoytink
Program Operations Coordinator



Cathy Klingler
Docket Administrator



David Myers, Esq.
Director, Case Evaluation and Placement



Elizabeth Pesin, Esq.
Staff Attorney



Sandy Peterson
Manager, Client Services



Taylor Ray
Client Services Associate



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Deputy Director, Placement



Courtney Smith, Esq.
Director, Volunteer Outreach and Education



Shannon Stiles
Client Services Specialist



Samantha Stiltner, Esq.
Staff Attorney



Maureen Thomas
Deputy Director, Client and Stakeholder Outreach and Communications



Leonce Wilson
Veterans Law Specialist



Ed Glabus
Executive Director

2016 Senior Fellows



Jim Carlsen, Esq.



Mike Kail, Esq.

case story

PAUL OLLIS

A CASE THAT COULD BROADEN VETERANS' BENEFITS

An important and potentially precedential case, being handled by TVC volunteer Paul Schoenhard, Esq., is *Ollis v. The Secretary*. A favorable decision in this Pro Bono Program case could entitle veterans to benefits when they suffer injuries while undergoing medical treatment outside the Veterans Administration (VA), but as a direct result of a VA referral.

The case involves Paul Ollis, a veteran who was diagnosed with a heart condition, atrial fibrillation, in 1997 at the Nashville VA Medical Center in Tennessee. He had a surgical procedure done in 1999 and a pacemaker put in that same year, but the procedure didn't successfully treat his condition. During a 2007 checkup at the VA, Ollis and his nurse practitioner discussed other options, including an epicardial MAZE or minimally invasive, mini-MAZE. That procedure wasn't one performed at the VA, but his cardiologist noted that it could be done at other local institutions and recommended Ollis do the procedure elsewhere.

Following consultation with his private cardiologist and referral to a private surgeon, Ollis had the surgery, done at the Methodist Medical Center in Oak Ridge, Tenn. During the surgery, Ollis suffered a disabling injury when the doctor accidentally severed his phrenic nerve. This nerve runs from the neck, between the lung and heart, to the diaphragm, which receives important motor information. It resulted in paralysis of his diaphragm. This dramatically decreased his overall lung function and causes shortness of breath. "Just walking up the stairs now leaves Ollis completely winded," says Schoenhard, of McDermott Will & Emery.

Following denial of his claim by the VA Regional Office, Ollis appealed the decision to the VA Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA) which also denied the claim, resting its decision on the rule that an injury must be caused by a VA employee. The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

(CAVC), in a 2-1 panel decision, affirmed the BVA denial of Ollis' claim on the same basis. However, due in part to a strong dissent filed by Judge Greenberg, Schoenhard appealed the decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit in December 2015, managing the case and filing briefs throughout 2016.

If the Federal Circuit decides to follow the arguments made by Schoenhard in his briefs and oral argument, veterans would be entitled to benefits when they suffer injuries while undergoing medical treatment outside the VA when that treatment follows a VA referral, even one in which VA medical personnel merely told the veteran that he needed a procedure not available at the VA facility. A favorable decision would broaden benefits coverage under 38 U.S.C. Sec. 1151 and significantly affect the Veterans Choice Program, which allows veterans to use eligible non-VA health care providers (pending legislation seeks to expand this program).

The case is an important one and has many potential ramifications for the future. It shows the impact of pro bono representation provided by tenacious volunteers like attorney Schoenhard not only for an individual veteran, but also for all veterans and their loved ones who will be seeking care from private physicians after VA referrals.

[Editor's Note: Oral argument was held in January 2017, and we are pleased to report that in a May 2017 precedential decision the Federal Circuit agreed with Ollis and his attorney. The case is now pending at the CAVC which must act in accordance with the Federal Circuit mandate. "The Federal Circuit found no direct fault of the VA, but the VA's referral may have led to an unforeseen event," says Schoenhard. "If the court finds in favor, Ollis could get benefits, and it opens the door for other veterans to receive benefits, as well."]

TVC Legal Scholars ProgramSM Expands in 2016

To help fulfill our mission task to encourage and facilitate pro bono representation by law school clinical and other appropriate programs, we operate The Veterans Consortium Legal Scholars ProgramSM. Under the aegis of our virtual TVC National Appellate and Veterans Law ClinicSM, this initiative introduces law students to the federal Pro Bono Program and exposes them to careers serving veterans and their loved ones in public interest law. This program includes some long-standing TVC projects such as:

- David Isbell Internships—10-week summer internships
- Jeffrey Stonerock Externships—offered during the academic year
- Equal Justice Works AmeriCorps—JD summer fellowships
- Pro Bono Clerkships—for law students to provide research and analysis for TVC volunteer attorneys' briefs before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
- Trainings and "boot camps" for new veterans law clinical programs
- Grants to veterans law clinical programs and related law school initiatives across the country to partner with TVC to support the federal Pro Bono Program

"In 2016, our TVC Legal Scholars ProgramSM expanded with three new offerings," says Courtney Smith, TVC director of volunteer outreach and education. "We became the Trophy Sponsor for the National Veterans Law Moot Court Competition. We ramped up the TVC Clinic-in-a-Footlocker™ project, where we ship a military footlocker of the best veterans law references and resources to our mission partner clinical programs. Additionally, we were thrilled to add pop-up legal clinics in the nation's capital."

The pop-up legal clinics generated requests to hold them more often, and TVC has planned to open a weekly Veterans Pro Bono Legal Clinic at the Washington DC VA Medical Center in 2017. Stay tuned for more information about this exciting development!

DAVID ISBELL INTERNSHIP PROJECT

The summer internship project provides law students a ten-week opportunity to work in appellate law and with the laws of veterans benefits and is named for our former chairman David B. Isbell, Esq., who died in 2011. Mr. Isbell was a partner in the Washington, D.C., law firm Covington & Burling, a former president of the D.C. Bar Association and an adjunct faculty member at the University of Virginia Law School for nearly 50 years. After graduating from Yale University in 1949, Mr. Isbell, a native of New Haven, Conn., served in the Army and returned to get his law degree, also at Yale, in 1956. He was an authority on legal ethics and offered his pro bono time to work on veterans benefits cases. He is considered a founding father of The Veterans Consortium.

JEFFREY STONEROCK EXTERNSHIP PROJECT

The Jeffrey Stonerock Externship Project is a partnership with law schools to provide law students real-world experience in the veterans law and appellate practice areas. The project is named for Jeffrey A. Stonerock, Esq., a former chairman of The Veterans Consortium, who died in 2011. Mr. Stonerock, a native of Dayton, Ohio, was a partner in the Washington, D.C. firm of Baker Botts and a 1979 graduate of the U.S. Military Academy in West Point, N.Y. Mr. Stonerock served 13 years on active duty with the Army and retired from the Army Reserve as a Lieutenant Colonel in 2001. His military career included service in the Judge Advocate General Corps and as an Army ranger and paratrooper. Mr. Stonerock got his law degree from Duke University in 1984 and a master's degree in law from the University of Virginia in 1989.

internship project

DAVID ISBELL INTERN 2016

Renee Reasoner



George Washington University Law student, Renee Reasoner, was selected as the 2016 David Isbell Intern for The Veterans Consortium. In this role, Reasoner, 36, had an opportunity to work in the area of veterans law with TVC staff attorneys. It's an area she says she has "an extreme passion" for and, "it's the reason I went to law school."

Reasoner is an Army veteran who served in the 82nd Airborne Division during the Iraq war. She was an interrogator, an Arabic linguist, and a paratrooper during her Army years. She was a trombone player in the Army Reserve during college at the University of Illinois at Chicago. After graduation and on the heels of 9/11, Reasoner chose to enlist in the Army. She led a team of soldiers in Iraqi combat and questioned and debriefed detainees on the battlefield and in detention centers. She was granted disabled veteran status in 2008, and did not have to fight to receive her 20 percent disability benefits. But she realizes many veterans need help receiving their rightful benefits. "Veterans are not being taken care of properly," she says.

As the David Isbell Intern, Reasoner valued the mentorship and the professional development she experienced during her time at TVC. "Through the internship, I was afforded diverse and interesting learning experiences and the opportunity to view the law, and specifically veterans law, from many perspectives," she says.

Reasoner relished the opportunity to assist with the direct representation of veterans in pursuit of benefits before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC) and the VA Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA). In addition, she reviewed cases for placement with pro bono attorneys, and analyzed legal trends at the CAVC for preparation of educational materials.

"Renee is an impressive young attorney with a passion and strong sense of duty for her fellow veterans, who are fighting for the disability compensation they rightfully deserve," says Courtney Smith, TVC director of volunteer outreach and education, who oversees the internship project at TVC. "She was eager to learn veterans law and in turn refreshed my resolve to serve veterans."

Now a law clerk for Judge Margaret Bartley at the CAVC, Reasoner, a Chicago native, says she continues to work with people she met during her TVC internship, in particular at the National Veterans Legal Services Program

and Paralyzed Veterans of America. She says she has a few ideas and passions that will lead her in future career choices. "I am driven by my desire to serve and to help veterans."

This drive was certainly recognized during her time at TVC, notes Ed Glabus, TVC's executive director. "Renee is another outstanding example of why offering internships and externships at The Veterans Consortium is essential to what we do," Glabus says. "We provide these opportunities so law students can participate in the federal Pro Bono Program and immerse themselves in veterans law, and their energy and enthusiasm for the work makes us better at what we do each day."

externship project

JEFFREY STONEROCK EXTERN 2016

Yawar Iqbal



Yawar Iqbal joined The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program as an extern in 2016. He served the Consortium mission by assisting staff attorneys with case preparation, including producing memorandums, performing legal research, and reaching out to clients and volunteer attorneys.

Yawar was born in Alexandria, Virginia, but raised in Ellicott City, Maryland. He graduated from the University of Maryland, where he double-majored in English and Philosophy. At the University of Maryland, he competed in Mock Trial, the debate team, and worked with several tutoring facilities focused on assisting students with their writing. He is currently earning his law degree at American University Washington College of Law and will graduate in 2017. He will serve as a Judge Advocate General in the United States Navy upon graduating law school.

Yawar currently resides in Washington, D.C. His hobbies include reading, writing, weight training, and running. It has been his dream since childhood to practice law and serve our country in the military.

Launch of Annual TVC Legal MusterSM

POP-UP LEGAL CLINICS

TVC is always looking for new ways to introduce law students to the federal Pro Bono Program, to recruit volunteer attorneys, and to offer TVC staff attorneys a chance to perform their personal pro bono service. An effort to accomplish these three tasks by offering legal assistance to veterans around the Veterans Day holiday in 2016 has spawned a new annual project known as The Veterans Consortium Legal MusterSM.

“The idea was to meet our veterans where they are and it was so successful that we’ve decided to make it an annual event,” says Samantha Stiltner, TVC staff attorney and the project manager who led the effort to organize the event. Three pop-up legal clinics were set up across our nation’s capital. “We chose areas that are typically underserved, where we think we can help the most veterans.”

TVC’s Veterans Pro Bono Legal Clinics were held across the District of Columbia at the VA Medical Center in Northwest, Neighborhood Legal Services Program (NLSP) in Northeast, and at U.S. VETS in Southeast. During the pop-up legal clinics, volunteer attorneys and law students met with veterans, conducted triage based on their stated needs, offered legal information resources, and provided referrals.



(L to R): Judy Donegan, Esq. (TVC staff); Chris Tyson, Esq. (TVC volunteer with Duane Morris LLP); Frank Natale (NLSP staff); Ed Glabus (TVC executive director); Kristi Schulenberg, Esq. (NLSP staff); and Samantha Stiltner, Esq. (TVC staff).

Law students learned about veterans law through a clinical experience, and volunteer attorneys got a chance to help veterans and their loved ones while learning about opportunities to participate in the federal Pro Bono Program.

“What an amazing opportunity it is for our attorneys to work side-by-side with the staff of The Veterans Consortium assisting veterans in Washington, D.C. and around the country,” said Katharyn Christian McGee, associate pro bono counsel for Duane Morris LLP, a Philadelphia-based firm. Duane Morris provided all the volunteer attorneys for the

launch of the first annual TVC Legal MusterSM. “Having the opportunity to provide legal assistance to so many of our nation’s veterans is both personally and professionally enriching. We are grateful for TVC’s support, collaboration, and mentorship in our pro bono efforts.”

The 2016 TVC Legal MusterSM was staffed by 12 attorneys and 12 student volunteers from neighboring law schools: Howard University School of Law, Georgetown University (GU) Law Center, The George Washington University Law School, American University Washington College of Law, and The Catholic University of

America. The attorneys were from TVC, NLSP, and Duane Morris LLP.

“There are a lot of agencies that provide services, but if you don’t know what agencies are available and how to connect with them, you can be lost,” said Kenneth Crawford, a law student at GU Law Center and a retired Army Lieutenant Colonel. Crawford is a volunteer at TVC pop-up legal clinics at the Washington DC VA Medical Center, and participated in this event.

The second annual TVC Legal MusterSM is planned for October 27, 2017, in conjunction with National Pro Bono Week.

“We chose areas that are typically underserved, where we think we can help the most veterans.”



Duane Morris®



TVC volunteer attorneys Justus Getty and Chris Liu (Duane Morris) and Leigh Hillebrand (TVC), assist a a veteran visiting the clinic.



TVC volunteer training

STATEMENTS OF FINANCIAL POSITION (unaudited)

December 31

2016

ASSETS

Cash and cash equivalents	\$833,368
Investments	364,051
Accounts receivable	2,181
Prepaid expenses	200,778
Property and equipment, less accumulated depreciation and amortization	0
TOTAL ASSETS	\$1,400,378

Liabilities and Net Assets

Liabilities	
Accounts payable and accrued expenses	\$124,492
Payable to LSC	0
Deferred revenue	750,500
Deferred rent liability	62,900
Accrued salaries and related benefits	90,245
Total Liabilities	1,028,137
Net Assets — unrestricted	372,241
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS	\$1,400,378

STATEMENT OF ACTIVITIES (unaudited)

Year ended December 31

2016

REVENUE

Legal Services Corporation — Veterans Pro Bono Program	\$2,938,722
Donated Services	11,738
Contributions	77,692
Investment Income	89
TOTAL REVENUE	\$3,028,241

EXPENSE

Program Services	
Legal Services Corporation — Veterans Pro Bono Program	\$2,950,538
The Veterans Consortium — donated funds	21,635
TOTAL EXPENSE	\$2,972,173
CHANGE IN NET ASSETS	56,068
Net Assets — beginning of year	316,173
NET ASSETS — END OF YEAR	\$372,241

REPORTED / ESTIMATED CONTRIBUTIONS (unaudited)**Organizational Benefactors & Donors*:**

Nathan P. Jacobs Foundation	\$7,500
Goodwin Proctor LLP	7,377
Michael Best & Friedrich LLP	5,000
Butler Weihmuller Katz Craig LLP	4,295
Harman Cain Family Foundation	1,500
CALIBRE Systems	1,000
Associated Building Maintenance Company, Inc.	500
Enterprise Management, Inc.	200
	\$27,372

Individual Benefactors (\$500+)*

Maria Kirby	\$6,017
Karen Thornton	4,641

Individual Donors (\$10-\$499)*

\$39,662

TOTAL VALUE OF CONTRIBUTIONS:**\$77,692**

* Please see honor roll of donors and benefactors at www.vetsprobono.org.

SUMMARY OF DONATED FUNDS AND EXPENSES (unaudited)

Contributions available as of 12/31/2015	\$303,003
Contributions received as of 12/31/2016	77,692
Interest earned 1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016	12
TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS/INTEREST	\$380,707
LESS	
Expenses Paid from Contributions 1/1/2016 - 12/31/2016	\$21,635
CONTRIBUTIONS AVAILABLE AS OF 12/31/2016	\$359,072



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