



# The Veterans Consortium

PRO BONO PROGRAM®

## DANICA GONZALVES, ESQ.

*Equal Justice Works Fellow*

*Sponsored by AT&T and Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld*



Danica Gonzalves serves as an attorney at The Veterans Consortium (TVC), a national nonprofit headquartered in Washington, D.C., whose Nationwide Volunteer Corps of more than 2,500 attorneys and related pro bono professionals provide free legal services for veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors. In 2017 Ms. Gonzalves received an Equal Justice Works Fellowship sponsored by AT&T and Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP to operate TVC's Discharge Upgrade Program, which offers nationwide pro bono legal services to veterans who received Other Than Honorable discharges due to post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) or traumatic brain injury (TBI). This discharge classification deprives veterans of VA benefits and compensation, limits their job prospects, damages reputations, and destroys self-esteem. PTSD/TBI-related injuries resulting from service should not preclude veterans from receiving these benefits, including access to the mental health care benefits they need.

Through TVC's Discharge Upgrade Program, Ms. Gonzalves intends to combat the stigma of invisible illnesses, provide an essential service to those seeking a discharge upgrade, and restore honor to our nation's defenders.

Ms. Gonzalves is a George Washington University Law School alum and currently lives in Washington, D.C. Her studies encompassed mental health law, health care, and disability rights. During law school, she founded Active Minds at The George Washington University Law School, a student organization raising mental health awareness on campus. She also serves as a speaker for mental health advocacy events. When she is not working, Ms. Gonzalves enjoys dancing, photography, and traveling.

To contact Danica or for more information on The Veterans Consortium, please contact her at [danica.gonzalves@vetsprobono.org](mailto:danica.gonzalves@vetsprobono.org).



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