2018 TVC Pro Bono Mission Partner Awards Reception & Fireside Chat

Celebrating Pro Bono Service to Veterans

Wednesday, 3 October 2018
Union Station
50 Massachusetts Avenue NE
Washington, DC
We believe that our veterans ~ 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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Our firm is proud to sponsor

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program

We honor and support all those who are making a real difference in the lives of veterans in need
Welcome to The Veterans Consortium’s 2018 Pro Bono Mission Partners Awards Ceremony & Fireside Chat, in the beautiful East Hall of Union Station. Tonight we gather in this historic place in our nation’s capital to celebrate the passionate work of our TVC National Volunteer CorpsSM and the invaluable commitment of our mission partners and supporters, who have joined forces with our dedicated staff to accomplish our shared mission. We are here because we believe our veterans—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. With each case taken and won our volunteers have strengthened the case law surrounding veterans appeals at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

Tonight we honor and salute you—our volunteers, our mission partners, and our supporters. Thank you to all who have gathered here this evening as we celebrate the successes of our TVC National Volunteer Corps and recognize our Pro Bono Mission Partner Awardees. You have helped The Veterans Consortium steadily expand our capabilities and capacity to make a real difference in the lives of veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors. It is a privilege to work with such dedicated mission partners, and we are equally grateful for each of our generous supporters who make our work possible.

It is our privilege to bring you tonight’s Fireside Chat panelists. These thought leaders will share their experiences and observations from the perspectives of service in the U.S. Congress, Federal Executive Branch, State Government, U.S. Armed Forces, and our TVC National Volunteer Corps. We are excited to hear their ideas and learn how pro bono legal services — especially working as part of Medical-Legal Partnerships — can help reduce veteran homelessness, improve access to VA services, increase veteran employment, and help prevent veteran suicide. These topics are timely and of national importance, and we must shine a spotlight on the critical role of pro bono legal services as one means to address them.

Together we must help our nation honor our commitments to the veterans we serve, provide them equal access to justice, and secure what they were promised when they took an oath to defend our country. Together we must collaborate to advance our shared mission by meeting veterans’ current and emerging challenges, increasing our outreach, and developing ways to further support our volunteers as they deliver pro bono legal services. Together we will succeed.

Mary Ann Gilleece, Esq.
Chairman, TVC Executive Board
Our commitment to veterans

We are proud to continue our partnership with Nationwide Insurance in supporting The Veterans Consortium and its invaluable work on behalf of America’s veterans.

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR’S WELCOME

Welcome to our Awardees, Veterans and their loved ones, members of our TVC National Volunteer CorpsSM, members of Congress and the Judicial and Executive Branches, Distinguished Guests, Mission Partners, and Supporters. Tonight, on this special evening, we pause to recognize the work of so many people making a real difference in the lives of Veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors. Over the past 26 years, our TVC National Volunteer Corps, Mission Partners, and dedicated staff have handled more than 47,000 Veterans’ requests for legal assistance, trained over 4,300 attorneys and paralegals from law firms and corporate legal departments, helped law schools build veterans law programs or legal clinics, and prevailed in more than 80% of our federal cases. These achievements translate into over $110 million in pro bono legal services for Veterans, and by our calculations more than three times that when we add the lifetime value of care, benefits, and disability compensation that have changed our clients’ lives.

Stretching from coast to coast, our TVC National Volunteer Corps has successfully represented cases from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and all U.S. Territories (plus many countries where U.S. Veterans live abroad). As the leading national charitable organization providing pro bono legal services for Veterans in federal venues, our volunteers come from organizations as diverse as large corporate legal departments and small academic veterans law clinics, from a majority of the Am Law 200 firms to newly-minted solo practitioners. As varied as these backgrounds may be, these many volunteers joined forces as part of The Veterans Consortium because we all share a passion to provide equal access to justice for our Veterans before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, the Federal Circuit, and the U.S. Supreme Court.

We gather tonight to honor awardees who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, to provide the best legal services free of charge to help Veterans and their loved ones meet their challenges. These awards are representative of the hard work and dedication of so many other organizations and individuals—we truly wish we could recognize each and every one of them tonight.

While these remarkable accomplishments are truly worthy of celebration, we have so much more to do. Please read more about our mission initiatives to learn how you can help us expand our Medical-Legal Partnerships (MLPs); advance a case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; build out our TVC Discharge Upgrade ProgramSM for cases involving PTSD, TBI, and other mental health issues; support an externship or internship for a young professional exploring a career of service in veterans law; or help local veterans in our nation’s capital by supporting our D.C. Veterans Pro Bono Legal Clinic project. There are so many ways you can engage in our mission. As a mission partner and supporter, you play a critical role in delivering equal access to justice for our veterans and their loved ones. On behalf of these men and women—our nation’s defenders—and their families, caregivers, and survivors, thank you for your volunteer service and for supporting our mission.

Ed Glabus
TVC Executive Director
The United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims is a federal court of record established by Congress through the Veterans’ Judicial Review Act (VJRA), which was signed into law on November 18, 1988 (now codified in chapter 72 of title 38, United States Code). Prior to the VJRA, veterans who were denied claims for VA benefits, or who disagreed with findings of the Board of Veterans’ Appeals (Board), had no right to pursue any review of Board decisions. The Court provides this independent judicial review and is not part of the Department of Veterans Affairs. The Court has exclusive jurisdiction to review final Board decisions based on the record before the agency and arguments of the parties, which are presented in a written brief, with oral argument generally held only in cases presenting new legal issues. The Court’s principal office is in Washington, D.C., but the Court is authorized to sit anywhere in the United States and does so a limited number of times each year, typically at law schools across the nation as part of an educational outreach program. The Court is authorized seven permanent, active Judges, and two additional Judges as part of a temporary expansion provision. Judges generally are appointed for 15-year terms, and each Judge has the option upon retirement to agree to be available for further service as a recall-eligible Senior Judge. During any period of recall service, a Senior Judge has all of the judicial authority and powers of a Judge in active service.
PRO BONO PROGRAM FOR VETERANS

At the request of the Court’s founding Chief Judge, Frank Q. Nebeker, the Federal Pro Bono Program for Veterans was created by the U.S. Congress in Public Law No. 102-229 and marked its 25-year milestone in 2017. The law provides for the “…furnishing of legal and 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. Provided, That such grants or contracts shall be made by the Legal Services Corporation pursuant to a reimbursable payment from the United States Court of Veterans Appeals….” [now the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims].

Legal Services Corporation

LSC is the single largest funder of civil legal aid for low-income Americans in the nation. Established in 1974, LSC operates as an independent 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation that promotes equal access to justice and provides grants for high-quality civil legal assistance to low-income Americans. LSC distributes more than 93% of its funding to 133 independent nonprofit legal aid programs with more than 800 offices. LSC promotes equal access to justice by awarding grants to legal services providers through a competitive grants process; conducting compliance reviews and program visits to oversee program quality and compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements as well as restrictions that accompany LSC funding, and by providing training and technical assistance to programs. LSC encourages programs to leverage limited resources by partnering and collaborating with other funders of civil legal aid, including state and local governments, Interest on Lawyers’ Trust Accounts (IOLTA), access to justice commissions, the private bar, philanthropic foundations, and the business community. LSC is headed by a bipartisan board of directors whose 11 members are appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate.
We are proud to support the deeply important work of

The Veterans Consortium

and are honored to join with

our partner VMware, Inc. in receipt of the

2018 TVC Law Firm/Corporate Pro Bono Mission Partners Award (Regional Leadership).

Congratulations to all of this year’s honorees on their much deserved recognition.
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Gary M. Butter, Esq., Vice Chairman & Director (Google Inc.)

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

Barton F. Stichman, Esq., Director (National Veterans Legal Services Program)


Edmund M. Glabus, Executive Director

Mary Ann Gilleece, Esq.
Chairman of The Veterans Consortium Executive Board

Thank you to our sponsors for supporting veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors.

To TVC staff, volunteers and mission partners: your hard work and dedication on behalf of our veterans is recognized and deeply appreciated.

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program
2101 L Street NW • Suite 420 • Washington, DC • 20037
OPPORTUNITIES TO VOLUNTEER WITH TVC
Here are three ways TVC’s National Volunteer Corps assists veterans daily:

⭐ Provide pro bono representation worldwide to all veterans, their families, caregivers, and survivors in federal venues.
  - The U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC)
  - The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit
  - The U.S. Supreme Court

  To volunteer, please visit our website: www.vetsprobono.org for training dates and contact info.

⭐ Provide pro bono legal services for men and women who served but received “Other Than Honorable” (OTH) Discharges, (an OTH precludes eligibility for care, benefits, and compensation), and were unreasonably denied veteran status:
  - This is an opportunity to focus on cases involving Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injury (TBI) cases, or other mental health conditions; and,
  - Help clients appeal to a military service’s Discharge Review Board (DRB) or a Board for Correction of Military Records (BCMR).

  To volunteer, please email: upgrades@vetsprobono.org or visit our website for training information.

⭐ Serve veterans directly at our National Veterans & Appellate Law Clinic℠
  - Weekly: TVC manages a local veterans legal clinic to encourage and facilitate law school clinical programs, operating one day a week. Serve for a half-day at this weekly pro bono legal information/referral clinic at the VA Medical Center in Washington, DC, staffed by volunteer attorneys and law students from TVC’s National Volunteer Corps℠ in partnership with NLSP-DC and the VA.
  - Annually: Celebrate DC Pro Bono Week 2018, by joining us for the third annual TVC Legal Muster℠ to provide legal information, referrals, and resources for underserved veterans in the Nation’s Capital. The annual TVC Legal Muster℠ was created to enhance wrap-around care for veterans who are often unaware of available resources. TVC National Volunteer Corps℠ members will triage legal matters for veterans on 26 October 2018 at the DC VA Medical Center, Neighborhood Legal Service Program-DC Offices, and at Easterseals/Steven A. Cohen Military Family Clinic in Silver Spring, MD.

  Interested? Please visit www.vetsprobono.org to volunteer or for more info.
EVENING PROGRAM

Presentation of Colors
U.S. Army Color Guard, Military District of Washington

National Anthem
Voices of Service
The Center for American Military Music Opportunities (CAMMO)

Welcome
Master of Ceremonies, Lee Woodruff

Welcome Remarks by Ed Glabus, Executive Director

Fireside Chat Program
Lee Woodruff, Moderator
~Panelists~
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth, U.S. Veteran
Ms. Adria Horn, U.S. Veteran
Ms. Colleen Miller, Esq., TVC Volunteer
Mr. Steve Parker, U.S. Veteran

Presentation of the 2018 TVC Pro Bono Mission Partner Awards

2018 TVC Chairman’s Award - Individual Award
Leo Dombrowski, Esq., Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP

2018 TVC Chairman’s Award - Organizational Award
Butler Weihmuller Katz Craig LLP

2018 TVC Law Firm Pro Bono Mission Partner - Regional Leadership
Greenberg Traurig LLP

2018 TVC Law Firm Pro Bono Mission Partner – National Leadership
Quarles & Brady LLP

2018 TVC Law Firm/Corporate Pro Bono Mission Partners – Regional Leadership
Blank Rome LLP and VMware

2018 TVC Law Firm/Corporate Pro Bono Mission Partners - National Leadership
Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and AT&T Inc.

Closing Remarks
Lee Woodruff

Final Song
“Rise”
Nationwide® is proud to support the success of The Veterans’ Consortium.

The accomplishments of the Veteran’s Consortium are making a difference, and Nationwide is honored to support these achievements. It’s part of our shared belief in recognizing the value and contributions of our veterans — not just within our company but in every community. Nationwide is proud to partner with TVC and Baker Hostetler in supporting our nation’s veterans.

Learn more about our many sponsorships at nationwide.com/sponsorships
Lee Woodruff is co-author of the best-selling book, *In an Instant*, a contributor to *CBS This Morning*, and co-founder of the Bob Woodruff Foundation. Since February 2007, Lee and her husband Bob have helped put a face on the serious issue of traumatic brain injury (TBI) among returning Iraq and Afghanistan war veterans, as well as the millions of Americans who live with this often invisible, but life-changing affliction.

Woodruff has been a contributing reporter for *Good Morning America*, and currently serves as a contributing reporter for *CBS This Morning*. Her best-selling book, *Perfectly Imperfect — A Life in Progress*, was followed by her first novel, *Those We Love Most*, which became a New York Times best seller.

As the Master of Ceremonies, Ms. Woodruff is pleased to be a part of this special evening recognizing the exceptional pro bono work of the TVC National Volunteer Corps and to participate as the moderator of the distinguished panel discussion raising awareness of the important role that TVC plays in serving veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors, as they seek equal access to justice and the care, benefits, and compensation they were promised when they took an oath to defend our country.

“The importance of raising awareness about the impact that TBI and PTSD have on our veterans as they return home cannot be overstated. I am pleased to assist The Veterans Consortium in raising awareness of the vital work that needs to be done in expanding access to justice for veterans suffering from PTSD and TBI, including discharge upgrades and securing the benefits and compensation they were promised so that they may receive the mental health care they need.”
The Honorable Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator
U.S. Veteran

U.S. Senator Tammy Duckworth is an Iraq War Veteran, Purple Heart recipient and former Assistant Secretary of the Department of Veterans Affairs. She was among the first Army women to fly combat missions during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

Duckworth served in the Reserve Forces for 23 years before retiring from military service in 2014 at the rank of Lieutenant Colonel. She was elected to the U.S. Senate in 2016 after representing Illinois’s Eighth Congressional District in the U.S. House of Representatives for two terms.

Duckworth attended college at the University of Hawaii and earned a Master of Arts in International Affairs from the George Washington University. Following graduation, Duckworth, who is fluent in Thai and Indonesian, moved to Illinois and began pursuing a Ph.D. in Political Science at Northern Illinois University.

In 2004, Duckworth was deployed to Iraq as a Blackhawk helicopter pilot for the Illinois Army National Guard. On November 12, 2004, her helicopter was hit by an RPG and Duckworth lost her legs and partial use of her right arm. Following her recovery, she became Director of the Illinois Department of Veterans Affairs, working to create a tax credit for employers who hired Veterans, establish a first-in-the-nation 24/7 Veterans crisis hotline and develop innovative programs to improve Veterans’ access to housing and health care.

In 2009, President Obama appointed Duckworth to be Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs. At VA, Duckworth coordinated the joint initiative with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to end Veteran homelessness. She also created the Office of Online Communications to improve the VA’s accessibility, especially among young Veterans, and also worked to address the unique challenges that Native American and female Veterans face.

In the U.S. Senate, Duckworth serves on several influential committees that give her an important platform to advocate for Illinois’s working families and entrepreneurs: the Environment & Public Works Committee; the Energy & Natural Resources Committee; the Commerce, Science, & Transportation Committee; and the Small Business & Entrepreneurship Committee. As Senator, she advocates for practical, common-sense solutions needed to move our country and our state forward like: rebuilding our crumbling infrastructure, keeping our water systems safe and lead-free, growing manufacturing jobs while supporting minority-owned small businesses, investing in communities that have been ignored for too long, and making college more affordable for all Americans. And Duckworth continues with her lifelong mission of supporting, protecting and keeping the promises we’ve made to our Veterans as well as ensuring that we stand fully behind the troops we send into danger overseas.
Steve Parker is President at WorkMerk, a privately-held education technology company that specializes in custom training solutions for individuals, businesses, VSOs and government agencies who consume continuing education, value employee/member engagement and advanced skills. Steve is charged with accelerating customer outcomes, growing WorkMerk partnerships, and mapping detailed customer experience data, in order to understand, align and adjust to the needs of the workforce.

Steve recently led an innovative, custom-design, delivery and assessment program of military education to more than 40 institutions across 25 countries in Africa, in partnership with the U.S. State Department.

As Executive Director of Joining Forces, he worked closely with First Lady Michelle Obama and Dr. Jill Biden to improve educational, wellness and employment outcomes for veterans and military families. As a White House Fellow, Steve worked for First Lady Laura Bush on Helping America’s Youth, a Presidential initiative aimed at improving educational and social outcomes for at-risk youth during the Bush 43 administration.

A retired Army Colonel with a proven record of excellence in command, operational planning and training in federal interagency and international environments. He led a formation of more than 1,000 troops during 13 months of combat operations in Iraq. Steve later served as the Chief of Operations, Training and Digital Simulations for the US Army’s premiere training delivery and deployment platform for Artillery, Air Defense and Electronic Warfare; where nearly 50,000 Soldiers, Marines and Allied military students from 52 countries train annually.

Steve is a graduate of The United States Military Academy, where he earned his B.S. in National Security Studies. He received his M.A. in African Studies at Yale University.
Adria Horn graduated from the United States Military Academy at West Point, New York in 2001. She was commissioned as a Second Lieutenant in the United States Army Military Police Corps and served in various positions as both a Military Police Officer and a Psychological Operations Officer. She deployed five times in support of the Global War on Terror. In 2011, she separated from Active Duty and moved to Maine.

Adria is a Lieutenant Colonel and Individual Reservist in the United States Army Reserve and currently serves as a Future Operations Planner for the United States Pacific Command. She holds an MBA from Northeastern University. Previously, she worked for U.S. Senator Susan Collins. Appointed by Maine Governor, Paul LePage, in April 2015 she served as the Director of the Maine Bureau of Veterans’ Services until September 2018 at which time she transitioned to the private sector as VP of Workforce Development for Tilson Technology Management out of Portland, Maine.

Adria is married to Lokie Horn, a South African native. Together, they have two young daughters, Ava and Juliette. They own a yak and sheep farm in Pittston, Maine.
Colleen Miller is a partner in the Tampa office of Quarles & Brady LLP, a national law firm of eleven offices and approximately 500 attorneys. She has been practicing law for over ten years. Colleen is a commercial litigator who primarily represents financial institutions in federal and state court actions concerning breach of contract, property disputes and title issues. Colleen also has experience representing insurance companies concerning coverage analyses and the litigation of personal, commercial, and professional liability policies.

Colleen initiated a firm-wide partnership with The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program. As the team leader for this partnership, Colleen helped organize and publicize a Veterans Consortium training which Quarles & Brady hosted in August 2017 at its Milwaukee office with live video feed across eight other Quarles' offices. The following year in February of 2018, Colleen organized a second training, which Quarles hosted at the Chester Ferguson Law Center in Tampa, Florida, and which was open to the Tampa Bay legal community. As a result of the two trainings, over one hundred and sixty attorneys learned how to represent veterans in their appeals for disability benefits.

Colleen continues to represent veterans before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veteran Claims and help them with their discharge upgrade petitions. Colleen has continued to spread the word, presenting to in-house counsel for several large corporations and firm clients about opportunities to partner on veteran disability appeals. Her motto is: "Let's get together and help a veteran in need." For her dedicated advocacy for veterans, Colleen has been recognized by the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program as a Volunteer Inspiring Pro Bono (VIP).

Colleen graduated from the University of Miami School of Law School magna cum laude in 2007. While attending the University of Miami, she was awarded the Dean's Certificate of Achievement Award for Constitutional Law, Evidence, Criminal Law, and a CALI Award of Excellence for Insurance Law and Policy. Prior to attending law school, Colleen graduated from Texas Christian University summa cum laude with a Bachelor of Arts in Biology, and a Bachelor of Science in Criminal Justice.

Colleen currently resides in Saint Petersburg, Florida, with her husband, Joshua Miller, and their adopted dog, Lara, a retired racing greyhound, and their two adopted cats, Dexter and Missy May.
Supporting advocates that provide the best legal services for our Veterans

We are proud to sponsor The Veterans Consortium and congratulate all honorees.

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EagleBank is proud to serve The Veterans Consortium, whose Dedicated Staff and Volunteers provide extremely valuable services to our Nation’s Veterans and their Families, Caregivers and Survivors!

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The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program congratulates Quarles & Brady LLP on their selection as our 2018 TVC Law Firm Pro Bono Mission Partner (National Leadership), in recognition of their outstanding record of service provided to our nation’s veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

Over the past two years, Quarles & Brady has provided critical logistical support by hosting not just one, but two national training events for new members of our TVC National Volunteer Corps in both Milwaukee, Wisconsin and Tampa, Florida with national webcast to training sites across the United States; by making available generous use of the firm’s facilities and information technology; by encouraging many Quarles & Brady partners and associates to take our specialized training in veterans law to prepare themselves to take appellate cases through the federal Veterans Pro Bono Program and discharge upgrade cases; by conducting significant event promotion and outreach to National, State, and Local partners to publicize the federal Veterans Pro Bono Program and opportunities to serve veterans and their loved ones; and by teaming with us to directly serve veterans in need by taking on 12 pro bono cases to date, accomplishing truly significant wins.

This sustained commitment to pro bono service for veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors clearly demonstrates that Quarles & Brady LLP has “gone above and beyond the call of duty” on behalf of our nation’s defenders and is a model for other firms’ pro bono programs to emulate.

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS!
The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program congratulates Greenberg Traurig LLP on their selection as our 2018 TVC Law Firm Pro Bono Mission Partner (Regional Leadership), in recognition of their outstanding record of service provided to our nation’s veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

Throughout the years, the Greenberg Traurig LLP pro bono team has provided critical mission support by furnishing logistical and outreach support for TVC National Volunteer Corps™ training events; by contributing generous monetary donations and in-kind donations of office equipment, information technology equipment, furniture, and use of conference facilities; by conducting significant event promotion and outreach to National, State, and Local partners to publicize the federal Veterans Pro Bono Program and opportunities to serve veterans and their loved ones; and by teaming with TVC to directly serve clients by taking on multiple appellate cases for veterans in need through the federal Veterans Pro Bono Program, accomplishing truly significant wins.

This sustained commitment to pro bono service for veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors clearly demonstrates that Greenberg Traurig LLP has “gone above and beyond the call of duty” on behalf of our nation’s defenders and is a model for other firms’ pro bono teams to emulate.

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS!
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National Organization of Veterans Advocates
Saab North America

*as of print deadline.
The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program congratulates Akin Gump Strauss Hauer & Feld LLP and AT&T, Inc. on their selection as our 2018 TVC Law Firm/Corporate Pro Bono Mission Partners (National Leadership), in recognition of their outstanding collaborative record of service provided to our nation’s veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

The Akin Gump/AT&T pro bono team has provided critical mission support by hosting multiple TVC National Volunteer Corps™ training events in-person and by webinar across the United States; by teaming with TVC to directly serve veterans through taking on federal appellate cases and discharge upgrade cases for veterans in need, by contributing generous donations to support TVC’s mission operations, and by jointly donating an extraordinarily generous two-year sponsorship of Equal Justice Works Fellow Danica Gonzalves hosted at The Veterans Consortium.

Akin Gump and AT&T’s support and active participation have directly increased TVC’s capacity to address cases involving Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD), Traumatic Brain Injuries (TBI), and Military Sexual Trauma (MST)—especially for veterans who unjustly received “Other Than Honorable” discharges and are denied access to the health benefits and disability compensation they earned, including the mental health care they need. Thanks to the Akin Gump/AT&T pro bono team, our TVC Discharge Upgrade Program™ handled over 400 requests for legal assistance last year and is on pace to handle more than 1,000 such requests this year.

This shared commitment to pro bono service for veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors clearly demonstrates that the Akin Gump/AT&T pro bono team has “gone above and beyond the call of duty” on behalf of our nation’s defenders and is a model for other pro bono teams to emulate.

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS!
The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program congratulates BlankRome LLP and VMware, Inc. on their selection as our 2018 TVC Law Firm/Corporate Pro Bono Mission Partners (Regional Leadership), in recognition of their outstanding collaborative record of service provided to our nation’s veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

The BlankRome/VMware pro bono team has provided critical mission support by hosting regional TVC National Volunteer Corps™ training events in Philadelphia and the National Capital Region; by teaming with TVC to directly serve veterans by taking on appellate cases through the federal Veterans Pro Bono Program and discharge upgrade cases for veterans in need; accomplishing truly significant wins; by contributing generous donations to support TVC’s mission operations; and by jointly sponsoring and conducting pro bono legal clinics for veterans.

In the past year, Blank Rome and VMware supported and provided legal services at multiple veterans pro bono legal clinics in the National Capital Region. As an example, BlankRome/VMware volunteer attorneys, paralegals, and legal administrative staff provided pro bono legal services at two events in the DC Armory in support of the Mayor’s Office of Veterans Affairs; helping more than 40 veterans in need and their loved ones at these two one-day clinics. Further, the BlankRome/VMware team has not rested on its laurels; rather, it has already initiated preparations with TVC for an upcoming Day of Service for veterans in Virginia.

This shared commitment to pro bono service for veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors clearly demonstrates that the BlankRome/VMware pro bono team has “gone above and beyond the call of duty” on behalf of our nation’s defenders and is a model for other pro bono teams to emulate.

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS!
Mrs. Shirley Sutfin with a picture of her husband, Charles Sutfin, a World War II Army veteran who fought in the Battle of the Bulge. The stack of papers represents the 14-year long case.

“This case is important because a veteran’s wife kept with it. She didn’t give up and is happy that she was eventually referred to The Veterans Consortium. It’s important and satisfying to stay with the veteran and provide guidance toward the end goal.”

Leo Dombrowski, Esq.,
Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP
TVC Volunteer Inspiring Pro Bono (VIP)
Leo P. Dombrowski, Esq., Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program congratulates Leo P. Dombrowski, a partner with the firm Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP on his selection to receive our 2018 TVC Chairman’s Award (Individual Leadership), in recognition of his outstanding record of service provided to our nation’s veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

A member of our TVC National Volunteer Corps since 1999, Mr. Dombrowski has collaborated with The Veterans Consortium to directly serve clients by taking on 10 appellate cases for veterans in need through the federal Veterans Pro Bono Program, accomplishing truly significant wins. Due to his diligence, dedicated service, professional legal skills and litigation prowess, Mr. Dombrowski has achieved an unbroken win streak, attaining a 10-0 record for veterans and their loved ones. Most recently, Mr. Dombrowski took a U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims case for Mrs. Shirley Sutfin, widow of WWII veteran Charles Sutfin who served from 1942-1945 and was a tank repairman at the Battle of the Bulge. After winning the case in federal court, Mr. Dombrowski continued his pro bono representation back at the Department of Veterans Affairs to effectuate the court’s decision, securing approximately $195,000 in retroactive widow’s benefits for Mrs. Sutfin and a monthly payment going forward of more than $1,200. All told, Mr. Dombrowski has directly and substantially enabled TVC to advance its mission to serve veterans and their loved ones.

This sustained commitment to pro bono service for veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors clearly demonstrates that Leo P. Dombrowski, a partner with Sanchez Daniels & Hoffman LLP has “gone above and beyond the call of duty” on behalf of our nation’s defenders and is truly a role model for legal professional to emulate.

THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS!
The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program congratulates the firm **Butler Weihmuller Katz Craig LLP** on its selection to receive our **2018 TVC Chairman’s Award (Organizational Leadership)**, in recognition of the firm’s outstanding record of service provided to our nation’s veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors.

Throughout the years, the Butler Weihmuller Katz Craig LLP pro bono team has provided critical mission support by performing outreach for TVC National Volunteer Corps™ training events in Florida; by teaming with TVC to directly serve clients by taking on at least 16 appellate cases for veterans in need through the federal Veterans Pro Bono Program, accomplishing truly significant wins; and by contributing extraordinarily generous donations over time that have strengthened TVC’s capabilities and capacity. All told, Butler Weihmuller Katz Craig LLP has directly and substantially enabled TVC to advance its mission to serve veterans and their loved ones.

This sustained commitment to pro bono service for veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors clearly demonstrates that **Butler Weihmuller Katz Craig LLP** has “gone above and beyond the call of duty” on behalf of our nation’s defenders and is a model for other firms’ pro bono programs to emulate.

**THANK YOU AND CONGRATULATIONS!**
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

Lara Eilhardt, Esq., Government Pro Bono Mission Partner

As an attorney in VA’s Office of General Counsel since 2011, Ms. Eilhardt has led the Department in connecting Veterans with free legal services by assisting in the establishment of more than 170 free legal clinics in VA facilities nationwide. Since serving as a Special Advisor on Veterans’ Access to Legal Services, Ms. Eilhardt has provided key guidance on VA-hosted legal services, spoken at national conferences on Veterans’ legal needs, and trained hundreds of VA providers on the value of co-locating legal services. In 2016, she founded VA’s Medical Legal Partnership (MLP) Taskforce, which has nurtured at least 27 VA MLPs at VA healthcare sites. She also serves as VA’s Pro Bono Liaison to the Inter Agency Pro Bono Working Group, establishing the first ever Pro Bono Policy in her office in 2014 to allow attorneys to volunteer their time for legal aid. In addition, she advises on veterans’ benefits law and VA accreditation.

Ms. Eilhardt graduated with Honors from the University of Virginia, and obtained her J.D. from the University of California-Berkeley School of Law, where she worked in legal clinics representing death row inmates and asylum seekers.

This sustained commitment to pro bono service to veterans and their families, caregivers, and survivors clearly demonstrates that Lara Eilhardt, Esq. has “gone above and beyond the call of duty” on behalf of our nation’s defenders and is a model for others to emulate.
SPECIAL RECOGNITION

TVC WINS 5,000TH FEDERAL VETERANS PRO BONO PROGRAM CASE

This was a hard-earned victory for appellant Marcus D. Garrett, a Vietnam veteran seeking justice and access to the care, benefits, and compensation he earned while serving his country in combat. Mr. Garrett was represented pro bono by a legal “dream team” from TVC’s National Volunteer CorpsSM and staff on this milestone 5,000TH federal Veterans Pro Bono Program case before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). The Honorable William H. Webster, former Director of the FBI and the CIA, current Chair of the Homeland Security Advisory Council (HSAC), and recently retired partner at the Washington, DC offices of international law firm Milbank, Tweed, Hadley & McCloy joined Linda Klein, Past-President of the American Bar Association (ABA) and senior managing shareholder at Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz as honorary co-counsel.

Ms. Judy Donegan, Esq., The Veterans Consortium’s Director of Litigation & Case Management, was the lead counsel for this milestone case and worked closely with Judge Webster and Ms. Klein on the successful federal appeal. Ms. Donegan is a seasoned attorney whose 25-year legal career includes more than a decade representing U.S. Military veterans before the CAVC and the Department of Veterans Affairs. She has led or participated in more than 2,000 federal appellate cases before the CAVC.
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October 3, 2018

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Quarles & Brady is honored to participate in the Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program. We share a common goal of narrowing the gap between those who need legal access and those who can access it, particularly our nation’s veterans.

For more information on our pro bono program, visit www.quarles.com/corporate-social-responsibility/pro-bono/.

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The National Veterans Legal Services Program (NVLSP) is proud to be a co-founder and sponsor of The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program®.

Since 1980, NVLSP has fought tirelessly to help veterans claim their rightful benefits, train veterans advocates and attorneys, as well as reform the VA benefits system. NVLSP’s legislative and legal efforts have resulted in more than $5.2 billion in retroactive VA benefits for more than 100,000 veterans. NVLSP's Lawyers Serving Warriors® program offers pro bono legal help with disability issues to veterans from all eras.

www.nvlsp.org
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The mission of the National Association of County Veterans Service Officers is to actively pursue all rightfully earned benefits for veterans and eligible family members through education, training, and advocacy program.
Greenberg Traurig is proud to support The Veterans Consortium.

Congratulations to TVC on 26 years of serving veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors!

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Thank you TVC staff members and volunteers for serving Veterans, their Families, Caregivers and Survivors!

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As we here at home contemplate our own duties, our own responsibilities, let us think and think hard of the example which is being set for us by our fighting men. Our soldiers and sailors are members of well disciplined units. But they are still and forever individuals — free individuals. They are farmers, and workers, businessmen, professional men, artists, clerks. They are the United States of America. That is why they fight. We too are the United States of America. That is why we must work and sacrifice. It is for them. It is for us. It is for victory.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Fireside Chat #21: On Sacrifice, April 28, 1942

Thank you, TVC, for fighting the good fight.
We support The Veterans Consortium’s belief that our Veterans deserve the benefits and compensation they were promised, and the best legal services at no charge to meet their challenges and needs. We’re proud to support this years 2018 TVC Pro Bono Mission Partner Awards Reception, and honor the Pro Bono Mission Partners!

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Special Acknowledgements

The Veterans Consortium would like to acknowledge and express our gratitude for the efforts of the following for helping make this night a wonderful celebration of pro bono service to our veterans, their families, caregivers and survivors.

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Center For American Military Music Opportunities (CAMMO)

John D. Altenburg, Jr., Major General,
U.S. Army (Retired), Greenberg Traurig LLP

The TVC Headquarters Staff

The Webster Group

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Remembering Their Sacrifice

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FOR THEIR SERVICE TO OUR COUNTRY,
AND WE THANK THE VOLUNTEERS
WHO TIRELESSLY SUPPORT THEM.

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