American Bar Association
Serving our Veterans Legal Needs through Collaboration

The Role of Law Schools, Lawyers and the Bar in Meeting the Pressing Legal Needs of Veterans
Top Three VA Priorities

1) Ending Homelessness Among Veterans by 2015.

2) Eliminating the Backlog of Claims by 2015.

3) Increasing access to VA facilities and services.
Top Unmet Needs

* #3 Eviction or Foreclosure Proceedings
* #4 Child Support Issues
* #5 Restoring Driver’s Licenses
* #6 Outstanding Warrants & Fines
Most veteran claimants are not represented, but representation is instrumental in helping them achieve positive results.

Many Veterans receive great assistance from VSOs in Filing Initial Claims.

Need for More Attorneys on Disability Appeals & Other Matters.
Partnerships increase veterans’ access to legal services.

Reduces homelessness and improves veterans’ health outcomes and quality of life.

Each OGC Region has a designated Veterans Justice Outreach Liaison.
247 Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Specialists, an increase of 75 since 2012.

The VJOs ensure that veteran/defendants get the medical treatment they need.

VJOs also actively support the 260 Veterans Treatment Courts (VTCs).
Veterans Legal Clinics

* VA hosts 47 different organizations in 44 VA facilities.

* There are currently 25 law school legal clinics, up from 18 in 2011.
Vision for the Future

* Bridging the Gap in Access to Legal Services for Veterans

* Facilitating Representation for Veterans in Benefits Appeals

* Serving Those Who Served