



TALLAHASSEE VETERANS LEGAL COLLABORATIVE

providing veterans with access to legal services that protect their interests and promote justice

SUMMARY REPORT – AUGUST 2019

TALLAHASSEE VETERANS LEGAL COLLABORATIVE & FSU COLLEGE OF LAW VETERANS LEGAL CLINIC

VETERANS SERVED: 1,000+ Veterans sought legal services over the past two years

LOCATIONS:

- TVLC has consistently conducted 2 weekly legal clinics (2017- 19), in addition to the Legal Program at seven annual North Florida Homeless and At Risk Veterans Stand Downs (2013-19).
- The 2 weekly clinics are hosted by the Sauls Bridges American Legion Post 13 and the V.A.'s Sgt. Ernest "Boots" Thomas Tallahassee Healthcare Center.

VOLUNTEERS AND COLLABORATION:

- A total of 165 attorneys have volunteered at the legal events since 2013 and more than one hundred referrals to attorneys' offices have offered advice and representation beyond the walk-in clinics themselves.
- A handful of part-time staffers volunteer additional hours alongside pro bono attorneys, a law professor, more than seventy law students so far (half were in the law school's clinic itself and the other half were themselves pro bono), and dozens of multi-disciplinary paralegals, social workers and other professionals comprising the Legal team of 20-25 volunteers each week.
- TVLC's two dozen Collaborative agencies and organizations also provide reliable counselors, advocates, social workers and various other services for housing, job opportunities, benefits, and other referrals.
- TVLC's Team co-ordinates regularly with the Leon County Veterans Treatment Court, as well as numerous other agencies.

COMMUNITY SERVICE AND DRIVER'S LICENSES:

- More than 200 Driver's License Reinstatements have resulted from the Stand Down Courts (10 different proceedings) and the TVLC Clinics.
- To clear many of those suspended licenses, TVLC has co-ordinated thousands of hours of Veterans' community service at events throughout the Capital area.
- In addition, TVLC has advocated to out-of-circuit & out-of-state jurisdictions to clear criminal & civil records, for job clearance or driver's license reinstatement.

- **EXAMPLES of legal victories for Veterans and their families include resolution of:**
 - **contempt of court proceedings;**
 - **injunctions for individual veterans separated from families;**
 - **landlord-tenant disputes and other help in securing housing;**
 - **consumer and credit legal battles;**
 - **step-parent adoption;**
 - **quashed warrants;**
 - **restoration of competency;**
 - **clemency, expungement and sealing petitions;**
 - **voter registrations;**
 - **payments from pensions, IRA's & benefits cases;**
 - **birth certificates & other legal documents from around the country;**
 - **divorce proceedings;**
 - **wills, & powers of attorney;**
 - **hardship licenses & other DMV administrative proceedings**

- **In addition, we have convinced individual veterans, often with peer advocacy, to turn themselves in to law enforcement when necessary to satisfy outstanding warrants as a first step toward rebuilding their lives, job & family, and encouraged them to seek services, including the VA, mental health treatment, PTSD counseling, substance abuse services, and job training.**