Organizations Offering Assistance to Veterans

Suicide / Crisis

1. **Veterans Suicide Prevention Hotline**  
   (800) 273-8255 (TALK), ext. 1  
   [www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/Veterans](http://www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/Veterans)  
   The Veterans Health Administration has established this hotline to give you 24/7 access to trained counselors who know what you're going through.

Assistance with Your VA Benefits and Other Legal Matters

1. **National Veterans Legal Services Program**  
   PO Box 65762  
   Washington, D.C. 20035  
   202-265-8305  
   [www.nvlsp.org](http://www.nvlsp.org)  
   [info@nvlsp.org](mailto:info@nvlsp.org)  
   NVLSP provides legal information and assistance for veterans, survivors of veterans and veterans advocates who are seeking service-related VA benefits.

2. **Lawyers Serving Warriors**  
   [LawyersServing@nvlsp.org](mailto:LawyersServing@nvlsp.org)  
   (202) 265-8305, ext. 152  
   LSW is a project of National Veterans Legal Services Program that provides free legal services to U.S. military personnel and veterans who served in Iraq or Afghanistan, and who need help with disability, discharge or veterans benefits cases.

3. **Disposable Warriors**  
   Sgt. Chuck Luther, Director  
   202-465-2059  
   chuckluther@disposablewarriors.com  
   Many know Sgt. Chuck Luther from news coverage of his brave service ([www.joshuakors.com/part3](http://www.joshuakors.com/part3)) and from his powerful Congressional testimony ([http://bit.ly/torturehearings](http://bit.ly/torturehearings)). Luther's organization, Disposable Warriors, assists soldiers who are being wrongfully discharged and denied benefits. Currently he works at Fort Hood in Texas, where he has been able to take rapid action on soldiers' behalves.

4. **Georg-Andreas Pogany**  
   202-286-8253  
   gapogany@gmail.com
Andrew Pogany is an independent veterans advocate, helping soldiers receive proper discharges and assisting wounded veterans with their disability claims. A former investigator for the National Veterans Legal Services program, Pogany’s work on behalf of soldiers has been highlighted by ABC News, NPR and the Washington Post.

5. **Vietnam Veterans of America**

The VVA can connect you with a knowledgeable, supportive veteran who can guide you through the VA system. To find a vet assistant in your area, click here: [https://benefitsforum.org/Rep.aspx](https://benefitsforum.org/Rep.aspx).

6. **The Veterans Pro Bono Consortium**

701 Pennsylvania Ave., NW, Suite 131
Washington, D.C. 20004
(888) 838-7727
mail@vetsprobono.org

If the VA has rejected your disability claim—or given you a troublingly low disability rating—you can appeal your case to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. Vets Pro Bono will help you with your appeal.

7. **Urban Justice Center – Veterans and Servicemembers Project**

Rachel Natelson, Project Coordinator
Veterans and Servicemembers Project
123 William St., 16th Floor
New York, NY 10038
646-602-5620

UJC offers free legal services to veterans in need of benefits, current soldiers seeking protection against harassment, potential recruits and others.

8. **The Veterans Legal Support Center**

Nick Henry, Administrative Director
The John Marshall Law School
315 S. Plymouth Court
Chicago, IL 60604
Phone: 312 427 2737 ext. 346
[vlsc@jmls.edu](mailto:vlsc@jmls.edu)
[www.jmls.edu/veterans](http://www.jmls.edu/veterans)

The VLSC is one of the nation’s first law school clinics dedicated solely to addressing the legal needs of veterans seeking their benefits from VA.

9. **GI Rights Hotline**

800-395-9544
[http://www.objector.org/girights/](http://www.objector.org/girights/)

The hotline provides advice to members of the military seeking information about discharges, grievance and complaint procedures and other civil rights.
415-566-3732
http://www.nlgmmltf.org/

The NLG assists those working on military law issues as well as military law counselors working directly with GIs.

11. Yale Law School’s Veterans Legal Services Clinic
(203) 432–4992

Yale’s VLSC assists Connecticut’s veterans in a range of litigation, including VA benefits, employment and housing. The clinic’s mission is to assist the most vulnerable vets.

12. Swords to Plowshares
1060 Howard Street
San Francisco, CA 94103
(415) 252-4788
supportvets@stp-sf.org
www.stp-sf.org

Swords to Plowshares provides legal assistance to low-income veterans who are in San Francisco. The group also helps vets who are filing disability claims with the VA. It provides counseling to wounded and traumatized soldiers as well as housing and employment training.

Soldiers who live outside San Francisco are encouraged to call anyway. The knowledgeable staff can direct you to assistance in your area.

13. Womble Carlyle Pro Bono Veterans Project
Karin Lennon
kalennon@wcsr.com
(919) 755-2100

Womble Carlyle assists veterans in North Carolina with the first stage of VA benefits applications.

Your Congressional Representatives

1. You can find all of your Congressional representatives by entering your address here: www.contactingthecongress.org. Start by calling your senior senator. Call the senator’s D.C. office; ask who handles veterans’ issues there; then ask to speak to that person.

Having a high-ranking senator and his staff working on your side can open previously closed doors and fix once broken situations. Note, though, that these people are extremely short on time. Before calling, make sure you can summarize your entire situation in 30 seconds or less, ending with the question: “Can help me?” If you can’t do it in 30 seconds, practice in front of a mirror until you can. Let the senator’s veterans’ advocate ask the follow-up questions. If you ramble, they will not assist you.
Note, too, that one of the first questions will be: "Do you have all of your military and VA papers, including your medical, discharge and military performance papers?" Do not call until the answer to that question is yes. Also, once you obtain your papers, never send the originals to anyone.

Law Firms Offering Pro Bono Assistance

1. Foley & Lardner LLP
   Steve Lambert
   Washington Harbour
   3000 K Street, N.W., Suite 500
   Washington, D.C. 20007-5109
   (202) 672-5300
   slambert@foley.com

2. King & Spalding LLP
   Aaron Holstromberg
   1700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
   Suite 200
   Washington, D.C. 20006-4706
   (202) 737-0500

Attorneys Specializing in Veterans Law

1. Joseph R. Moore
   (877) 838-2889
   jmoore@veteranlaw.com
   www.veteranlaw.com

2. Sean A. Kendall
   P.O. Box N
   Boulder, Colorado 80306-1876
   Office (303) 449-4773
   Toll-free Voicemail (877) 277-2119
   sean.kendall@comcast.net

3. Keith D. Snyder
   P.O. Box 5
   Olney, Maryland 20830
   (301) 774-1525

4. Kenneth M. Carpenter
   1525 S.W. Topeka Blvd.
   P.O. Box 2099
   Topeka, Kansas 66601-2099
   (785) 357-5251
5. **R. Edward Bates**  
1801 N. Mill Street, Suite J  
Naperville, Illinois 60563  
(708) 355-2090

6. **Theodore C. Jarvi**  
4500 S. Lakeshore #550  
Tempe, Arizona 85282  
(480) 838-6566

7. **Hugh D. Cox**  
321 Evans St. Mall, Suite 102  
P.O. Box 154  
Greenville, North Carolina 27835-0154  
(919) 757-3977  
hughcox@hughcox.com

8. **Joseph Nathaniel Baron**  
(800) 338-6074  
jinbaron@aol.com, ucdinc@aol.com

9. **Michael R. Viterna**  
41820 West Six Mile Road, Suite 103  
Northville, Michigan 48167  
(248) 380-0000  
ftbenv@aol.com

10. **Louis M. DiDonato**  
245 E. Liberty, Suite 250  
Reno, Nevada 89501  
(775) 322-7877  
lmdatcls@aol.com

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