



VetsLegal.org



VETERANS
LEGAL INSTITUTE

— 2021 —

IMPACT ANNUAL REPORT

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VLI MISSION

Veterans Legal Institute® (VLI) provides pro bono legal assistance to homeless, at risk, disabled and low-income current and former service members to eradicate barriers to housing, healthcare, education, and employment and foster self-sufficiency.

“Throughout the whole process, I felt really comfortable with Veterans Legal Institute and with my attorney, Ian, who always reached out to me. I always felt that he was there whenever I called. I feel satisfied that I at least got the 100% for now, and I wouldn't have got that if I wouldn't have the help from my attorney Ian and the Veterans Legal Institute.

They were there for me to provide a service that I needed, and I would urge any veterans that think that they have any kind of claim to seek out Veterans Legal Institute because they got something done for me that I don't think I would have got done on my own.”

– **Barry Kochuba, Vietnam Era U.S. Air Force Veteran**



JOIN OUR TRIBE

WAYS TO SERVE AT VETERANS LEGAL INSTITUTE

- Take a case pro bono
- Volunteer in-house
- Apply to join the VLI Board
- Join the VLI's Annual Fundraising Event Committee

WAYS TO CONTRIBUTE

- Designate Veterans Legal Institute as your charity of choice on Amazon Smile
- Become a monthly supporter and stand with our Veterans of today and tomorrow by registering at VetsLegal.org or text VLI to 44-321
- Recommend VLI receive a donation through your Donor Advised Fund (DAF)
- Consider VLI in your estate legacy planning

SOMETIMES IT'S HARD TO FIND
WORDS TO EXPRESS MY THANKS
FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE
FOR ME AND AS YOU KNOW
MOST TIMES I SAY NOTHING
AT ALL BUT YOU CHANGED
MY LIFE AND I CAN NEVER
THANK YOU ENOUGH ♡

Let's be friends on social media!



@VeteransLegalInstitute



@VetsLegalOC

*All donations are tax deductible to the extent allowed by law

SPONSOR A HERO

\$5,000

Supports onsite and online, free legal clinics at a local VA Hospital; this clinic serves close to 60 low-income and homeless Veterans who have medical issues monthly.

\$2,500

Supports a Veterans Legal Institute advocate to give onsite legal services at the Vet Center and other veteran serving hot spots, where combat Veterans can gather and receive free mental health services each month.

\$1,000

Supports sustaining the healthcare and standard of living of Veterans through appeals led by an attorney; these appeals secure benefits claims for illnesses and injuries including, but not limited to, post traumatic stress disorder, traumatic brain injury, and other visible and invisible wounds of war.

\$500

Supports one Legal Hero to collaborate with other nonprofits to keep one Veteran family safe and sound.



**ONGOING
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CAL VET

DATA HIGHLIGHTS

2014-2021

- Over **\$3.9 million** dollars in Veteran benefits and **\$560K** dollars in civil claims awarded to low-income VLI Veteran clients
- Approximately **300 lawyers** and law firms have volunteered to serve the VLI mission
- The number of pro bono clinic dates has increased from 10 per year in 2014 to over **85 per year** in 2021, including providing remote assistance for at-risk veterans
- **15%** of VLI clients have disclosed they have no income
- Over **60%** of VLI's clientele have a household income of under \$2000 per month

Total # of Matters by Practice Area in 2021	
Veterans Benefits and Discharge Upgrades	530
Family Law	343
Housing	166
Consumer Law	96
Other (Licensing, Torts, etc.)	63
Wills, Estate, POA, Advanced Health Care Directive	88
Expungements	48
Individual Rights (including Immigration, Civil Rights)	32
Nonprofit and Small Business Assistance	27
Employment Law	14
Probate Law	10
Government Benefits, other than Veteran	3
Health	1

Total # of Matters by Income in 2021 (Regardless of Household Size)		
Zero Income	143	10%
Less than \$1,800 per month	582	40%
Less than \$2,000 per month	662	46%

In 2021, 19 of 23 unlawful detainee cases avoided eviction and Veteran homelessness—roughly a 82% success rate versus a 60% or lower success rate per studies for those without representation.

In 2021, 83% of discharge upgrade decisions received by VLI were successful—that's over 3x higher than average rate of success. Favorable upgrades resulted in low-income Veterans restoring their dignity and ability to access safe housing, healthcare, economic and other benefits.



33%

of all cases involved complex Veteran benefit appeals or discharge upgrades related to military sexual trauma (MST), post-traumatic stress (PTS), traumatic brain injury (TBI), and other combat related trauma

10,000+

volunteer hours logged

85

pro bono legal clinics throughout SoCal

30%

of Veteran clients had dependent children

1,445

active matters throughout 2021, ages 20-101

THOSE WE SERVE

2021 HIGHLIGHTS

64%

of VLI clients were Black, Indigenous, or People of color

33%

of VLI clients self-identified as disabled

17%

of Veterans served were female, while women Veterans only make up 8% of California's Veteran population

“ I salute VLI for helping me with this situation. You’ll never know how much of a great help that is when you can come home and feel comfortable in your home. Any veteran who is languishing in their situation, I would recommend to them that they give VLI a call. VLI is an ally of the armed forces.”

– A Grateful US Army Veteran



**VETERANS
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1231 Warner Ave.
Tustin, CA 92780
714.852.3492
www.VetsLegal.org
Tax ID 47-1608069

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