



MIZZOU LAW VETERANS CLINIC

WHAT IS THE MIZZOU LAW VETERANS CLINIC?

The Mizzou Law Veterans Clinic represents veterans (free of charge) in discharge upgrades and in VA disability compensation claims.

In addition to directly representing veterans with their disability claims and discharge upgrades, the Clinic also participates in high level amicus brief writing; training and education for practicing attorneys; rural outreach through Tigers for Troops; annual symposia addressing national issues, and more.

The Veterans Clinic is primarily funded by private donations.

WHAT ARE OUR RESULTS?

Since its inception in 2014, the Clinic has recovered more than **\$14 million** in federal compensation benefits for the veterans the Clinic represents.

In addition to representing veterans directly, the Clinic also directly assists veterans by answering their questions, directing them to a partner attorney or veterans service officer, or presenting VA disability basics. Since 2014, the Clinic has directly assisted over **1,400** veterans.

QUESTIONS?

MULAWVETCLINIC@MISSOURI.EDU

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TIGERS FOR TROOPS: Our fight to provide access to services

Tigers for Troops works to **provide assistance to veterans in rural Missouri** who do not have access to veteran services. Under the program, the Clinic partners with University of Missouri Extension to send students and supervising attorneys to rural areas throughout the Missouri to educate veterans about available resources, as well as assist them with disability claims and appeals and discharge upgrades. This program serves the vital purpose of giving rural veterans access to resources they normally would not have. To date, Tigers for Troops has reached **97** counties and held **222** one-on-one legal consultations with veterans.

Additionally, as part of the program, Clinic personnel train attorneys on veterans' law to increase the number of attorneys qualified to help veterans in Missouri's rural areas. The Tigers for Troops Program is directed by the Clinic's Thomas Fellow.

SHOW-ME HOME: Our fight to end Veteran homelessness

Veterans who are homeless or at risk for homelessness often face legal issues that make it difficult for them to obtain or maintain stable housing. The Department of Veterans Affairs published a Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO) in October 2022 for more than \$11 million in grants to entities that will provide legal services to eligible Veterans who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness. The University of Missouri School of Law Veterans Legal Clinic is fortunate to have been one of the chosen grant recipients.

Show Me Home Program focuses on Discharge upgrades, Character of Service upgrades and VA disability claims and appeals.

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NUMBER OF CLIENTS OVER TIME

Since its beginning in 2014, the Clinic operated with one attorney. At the beginning of 2018, the Clinic had **35 clients**. After new funding opportunities experienced attorneys were added to the team which allowed the Clinic to end 2022 with **105 clients**.

MILITARY LAWYER TRANSITION PROGRAM

The Military Lawyer Transition program is designed to help Mizzou Law students entering a Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG) program. This program is needed because there is a period between graduation and reporting for active duty (typically six to eight months) where the military does not provide pay to the student. This program allows the Clinic to pay the student to work in the Veterans Clinic while he or she is waiting to report to their first duty station. The program will give the future JAG officer financial support as well as an opportunity to work on behalf of veterans in the Clinic.

ADVOCACY

The Clinic has been a major player in veterans law advocacy that has led directly to positive outcomes for veterans and our clients. We have written amicus briefs in higher level federal courts, including the United States Supreme Court. These briefs have been instrumental in advocating for positive systemic change for veterans. Recently, we were a part of an amicus briefing effort to extend the Agent Orange Presumption Exposure to include Blue Water Navy Veterans which was granted and opened the door for thousands of service members to be eligible for compensation benefits. The Clinic has also been involved in publishing law review articles and other academic materials. We are also active within various veteran advocacy groups which entails partnership and collaboration. This collaboration results in valuable knowledge and best practices, leading to positive outcomes for our clients and veterans across the nation.

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SYMPOSIUM

Every year, the Clinic holds a symposium highlighting updates in veterans' law as well as hot topic veterans law issues, including Military Sexual Trauma, Post Traumatic Stress, and Gulf War Illness. Through symposia, we have been able to provide hundreds of CLE hours to attorneys and education related to veteran's law so they can help veterans in their own practice.

MEET THE STAFF

With a small team, the Clinic has been able to accomplish big results and continues to push the envelope of veteran advocacy.

Brent Filbert | Director

Martha Bradley | Attorney, Tigers for Troops Director (Thomas Fellow)

Carter Templeton | Attorney

Andy Rogers | Show-Me Home Coordinator

Eugene O'Loughlin | Veterans Service Specialist

Mary Frerking | Record Retention & Management

Anita Cowan | Executive Assistant

Jared O'Loughlin | Office Support Specialist

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OUR NUMBERS

1436

Number of
Veterans
Assisted

97

Number of
Counties
Visited
under TFT

193

Number of
Clinic
Students
Matriculated

15

Number of
Attorney
Training
Events

\$14,000,000+

Amount of Federal Disability Compensation Secured for
our Clients

222

Number of
One-on-One
Consultations
with Veterans
under TFT

105

Number of
Veterans
Currently
Represented

443

Number of
Attorneys
Trained

265

Number of
Veterans
Represented
All Time

QUESTIONS?

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Veterans Clinic
School of Law
University of Missouri