



NVLSP
NATIONAL VETERANS LEGAL SERVICES PROGRAM

www.nvlsp.org

2021 NVLSP Highlights

In the second year of the COVID-19 pandemic, NVLSP continued to offer the products and services we provide to service members, veterans, their families, and veteran advocates virtually.

600	Filed about 600 appeals before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. NVLSP averaged over a 90% win-rate at the Court.
5,000	Over 5,000 attorneys, veterans service officers, and other advocates were trained by NVLSP Training and Publications.
500	Placed nearly 500 cases of veterans and service members with Lawyers Serving Warriors® volunteer attorneys across the country and trained nationally over 1,200 attorneys, veterans, service members, and advocates, including veterans service officers from Missouri, Texas, Virginia, and Washington.
170	Held 11 virtual Lawyers Serving Warriors® clinics reaching nearly 170 veterans and service members in 2021.
\$2,200,000	In 2020-2021, NVLSP forced the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to pay more than \$2.2 million in retroactive benefits to 96 survivors of deceased Vietnam veterans who suffered from diseases the VA conceded were the result of their exposure to Agent Orange while serving in Vietnam.

Milestones...

NVLSP announced its new [Burn Pits Claims Assistance Program](#) (Burn Pits CAP) in October 2021. This Program marks a major expansion of the free legal representation that NVLSP has provided to veterans and their survivors over the last 40 years. The Burn Pits CAP will assist veterans exposed to toxic emissions from burn pits while serving overseas by representing them on claims for disability benefits before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

In October 2021, the United States District Court for the District of Columbia [certified](#) a [class action](#) brought by NVLSP and pro bono counsel Perkins Coie LLP, on behalf of Mr. Oscar D. Torres and former members of the U.S. Navy and Marine Corps who were wrongfully denied military disability retirement. The lawsuit challenges the Navy's use of the "Properly Referred Policy" to deny military disability retirement to Mr. Torres and other similarly situated servicemembers. Up to 10,000 Navy and Marine Corps veterans wrongfully denied military disability retirement.