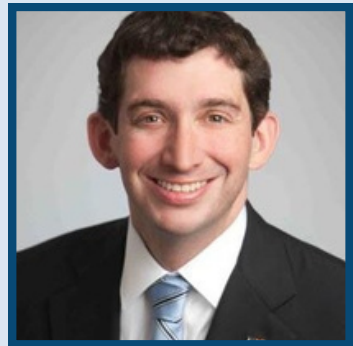




VETERANS
LEGAL SERVICES

Annual Event

An Evening With
Doris Kearns Goodwin & Joseph Kearns Goodwin



More Than Words Bookstore
Boston, MA

July 16, 2024

VLS'S MISSION

To help Massachusetts veterans overcome adversity by providing free civil legal aid that honors their service, promotes well-being, and responds to their distinctive needs.

VLS delivers its services at community partner sites, promoting veteran engagement and fostering collaboration and referrals among the veterans' service providers—all with the goal of improving veteran well-being.



WHAT WE KNOW

Veterans Need Our Help

For too many veterans, the physical, mental, and financial impact of military service results in housing, financial, and family issues.

Legal needs make up 9 of the top 10 unmet needs of veterans experiencing housing insecurity.

Veterans with legal problems are nearly twice as likely to experience suicidal ideation. And our country is losing at least twenty-two veterans to suicide every day.

WHAT WE DO

Change Veterans' Lives

VLS was founded in 1991 to respond to the unmet legal needs of Massachusetts veterans.

Veterans are at higher risk for legal problems such as evictions, financial problems, benefits denials, and family law problems.

VLS works to resolve legal problems for approximately 1,000 veterans a year, mitigating undue stress and promoting their well-being.



HOW WE WORK

Where We Serve

VLS staff and volunteer attorneys conduct clinics at seven partner sites and, with your support, VLS plans to add sites in the coming years!

- Veterans Home at Chelsea
- New England Center & Home for Veterans
- Norfolk County Veterans Treatment Court
- VA Bedford Healthcare System
- VA Boston Healthcare System
- Veterans Northeast Outreach Center
- Volunteers of America – MA

WHO WE SERVE

Approximately 70% of veteran households face at least one civil legal challenge per year. Of those households, 21% face six or more legal challenges annually.

VLS prioritizes cases in which the veteran would otherwise go without assistance, where representation is likely to have a significant impact, and where VLS's specialized expertise in veterans' matters is needed. VLS has a waiting list for veterans seeking legal help.



WHO WE SERVE

Approximately 25% of VLS clients identify as people of color, even though only 7% of Massachusetts veterans are people of color.

Approximately 14% of clients are women even though women make up only 6% of all veterans in Massachusetts.

While about 20% of Massachusetts veterans have a service-connected disability, more than 72% of VLS clients have a diagnosed disability.



★ VLS Highlights ★

June 2023 | VLS Annual Event

VLS hosted its annual event in memory of our late and beloved Board Chair Allan Ryan. We were honored to be joined by Massachusetts Attorney General Andrea Campbell.



September 2023 | Stand Down Boston

VLS team members and volunteers set up at Boston City Hall Plaza alongside dozens of other supportive services organizations and agencies to holistically address challenges faced by military veterans in Greater Boston.



January 2024 | Walk to the Hill

VLS board and team members participated in the Equal Justice Coalition's Walk to the Hill urging the Massachusetts Legislature to increase funding for civil legal aid organizations in the Commonwealth.



June 2024 | Federal Bar Association Training

VLS, in collaboration with the U.S. District Court for the District of Massachusetts and the U.S. District Court for the District of Rhode Island, hosted a panel discussion and training for lawyers, judicial/court staff, and students highlighting veterans' legal issues, considerations, and resources.



Board

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Jennifer Glanville
Joseph Kearns Goodwin, Esq.*
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Christopher Walton*
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In Memoriam
Allan Ryan 1945 - 2023

Allan, an attorney and Marine Corps veteran, joined the VLS Board in 2014 and served as chair from 2016 - 2023. He cared deeply about VLS and worked closely with the board and staff to advance its mission. Allan believed strongly that VLS's work is not charity; it is the repayment of a debt that we owe our servicemembers.

Allan oversaw the largest and most rapid growth of the organization in its history. Under his leadership, VLS grew from a staff of three to a team of ten. VLS's budget more than quadrupled, and the number of community partnerships and veterans served expanded exponentially.

We are forever grateful for Allan's contributions and will forever miss his laugh, smile, character, and kindness.

VLS Team

Anna Richardson, Esq., Co-Executive Director & Chief Counsel
Sarah Roxburgh, Esq., Co-Executive Director & Chief of Operations
Cindy Palmquist, Esq., Colonel Ruby W. Linn Managing Attorney
Angie Vargas, Esq., Pro Bono Director
Eve Elliott, Esq., Dir. of Law Student, Co-op, and Fellowship Programs & Sr. Staff Attorney
Perry Denton, Esq., Staff Attorney*
Katherine Coombs, Esq., Staff Attorney
Jenna Dwy, Staff Attorney (as of August 2024)
James Edward Johnson, III, Staff Attorney (as of August 2024)*
Heather Rick, Business Manager & Program Data Analyst
Kate Garvin, Communications & Development Associate
Mattie Saulnier, Member, AmeriCorps Legal Advocates of Massachusetts
Sarah Reberio, Eligibility & Outreach Specialist

Council of Advisors

The Council is comprised of persons recognized by VLS for their exceptional commitment to and support of VLS and its mission.

Rosemary Allen, Esq.	Hon. James McHugh, III (ret.)*	Lily Robles
Jacqueline Fearer	Tim McLaughlin, Esq.*	Steve Sheinkopf
Jordan Krasnow, Esq.	Sean Mullaney, Esq.*	Andrew von Kuhn*
Kristen Kuliga, Esq.	Robin Azar Orazem	James P. Whitters, III, Esq.*

Friends of VLS

Friends of VLS is a group of distinguished individuals invited by the VLS Board of Directors to be affiliated with the organization due to their special knowledge of veterans' issues, legal services, philanthropy, and non-profit organizations.

Richard Allen, Esq.	Michael B. Keating, Esq.*	Stephen Pagliuca
Michael Douvadjian*	Coleman Nee*	John "Jack" J. Regan, Esq.*
Doris Kearns Goodwin	Steve Oleskey, Esq.	William F. Sinnott, Esq.*
Scott Harshbarger, Esq.		

*Denotes Veteran

Access to Justice Fellows

The Access to Justice Fellows Program, a project of the Massachusetts Access to Justice Commission and the Lawyers Clearinghouse, enables senior lawyers and retired judges to partner with nonprofit organizations, courts, and other public service entities to increase equal justice for all. Although lawyers are encouraged to provide pro bono services throughout their careers, they are not often offered a role to play after retirement. By matching senior lawyers with groups that need their help, the program allows these lawyers to use their specialized skills and experience to do engaging pro bono work, remain active members of the legal community, and help people and groups in need.

VLS Access to Justice Fellows:

2023 – 2024: Susan Anderson, Esq.
2022 – 2023: Michelle Wolf, Esq.
2019 – 2020: Pamela Meister, Esq.
2018 – 2019: Jonathan Feltner, Esq.*
2018 – 2019: Crispin Birnbaum, Esq.
2017 – 2018: Steve Parker, Esq.*

2016 – 2017: Hon. Paul Chernoff (ret.)*
2015 – 2016: Hon. John Cratsley (ret.)*
2014 – 2015: Richard Allen, Esq.
2014 – 2015: Jordan Krasnow, Esq.
2013 – 2014: Rosemary Allen, Esq.

Pro Bono Attorneys

VLS's pro bono program was developed to harness the private bar's interest in supporting military veterans and to match attorneys with available VLS volunteer opportunities. Over 300 volunteer attorneys from 50 law firms give their time to VLS and the veterans it serves. As part of its strategic plan goals, VLS will continue to grow this program. Contact Pro Bono Director Angie Vargas to learn more: angie@veteranslegalservices.org.

Thank you to VLS's incredible pro bono attorneys, many of whom are here tonight!



Tonight's Program

We are delighted to welcome Doris Kearns Goodwin and Joseph (Joe) Kearns Goodwin as the featured speakers at tonight's event.

All proceeds support VLS's mission of helping Massachusetts veterans overcome adversity by providing free civil legal aid that honors their service, promotes well-being, and responds to their distinctive needs.

WELCOME & MESSAGE FROM VLS BOARD CHAIR

William B. Asher, Esq.

Partner, Choate, Hall & Stewart (ret.)

Board Chair, VLS

Board Co-Chair, Social Venture Partners Boston

Secretary, MassVentures

THANKING TONIGHT'S SUPPORTERS

Nicole Jackson Leslie, Esq.

Managing Director & Senior Wealth Planner, Brown Brothers Harriman
Board Secretary, VLS

Board Member, Boston Estate Planning Council

Professional Advisors Committee, The Boston Foundation

Member, Community Foundation Board, The Dimock Center

INTRODUCING JOSEPH KEARNS GOODWIN

Sarah Roxburgh, Esq.

Co-Executive Director & Chief of Operations, VLS

INTRODUCING DORIS KEARNS GOODWIN

Anna Richardson, Esq.

Co-Executive Director & Chief Counsel, VLS

FEATURED REMARKS

Doris Kearns Goodwin & Joseph Kearns Goodwin

Doris Kearns Goodwin



Doris Kearns Goodwin is a presidential historian, international keynote speaker, Pulitzer Prize-winning, New York Times #1 best-selling author, and a partner in Pastimes Productions.

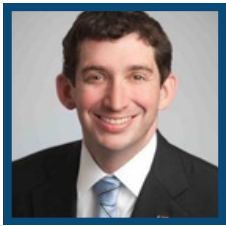
Doris is the author of seven critically acclaimed and New York Times bestselling books that provide intimate portrayals of Presidents Abraham Lincoln, Theodore Roosevelt, Franklin Roosevelt, Lyndon Baines Johnson, and John F. Kennedy. Her eighth

book, *An Unfinished Love Story: A Personal History of the 1960s*, was published on April 16, 2024. Artfully weaving together biography, memoir, and history, this new book takes readers on the emotional journey Doris and her husband, Richard (Dick) Goodwin embarked upon in the last years of his life as they delved into more than 300 boxes of letters, diaries, documents, and memorabilia that Dick had saved for more than fifty years.

Doris earned the Pulitzer Prize in History for *No Ordinary Time: Franklin and Eleanor Roosevelt: The Home Front in World War II* and the prestigious Lincoln Prize and the inaugural Book Prize for American History for *Team of Rivals: The Political Genius of Abraham Lincoln*. In 2016 she was the first historian to receive the Lincoln Leadership Prize from the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library Foundation. A former sports journalist, Doris was the first woman to enter the Boston Red Sox locker room, and she consulted on and appeared in Ken Burns's documentary *Baseball*.

Doris graduated from Colby College and earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree in Government from Harvard University. She has three sons, four grandchildren and lives in Boston.

Joseph Kearns Goodwin



Joseph Kearns Goodwin (Joe) is the Strategic Initiatives Executive at Bank of America. In that role he helps lead Bank of America's efforts around partnerships related to sustainability, to include the Sustainable Markets Initiative, the UN Global Investors for Sustainable Development, the Vatican Council on Inclusive Capitalism, and the IBC Stakeholder Capitalism Metrics. Joe is a graduate of Harvard and Harvard Law School. Joe enlisted in the U.S. Army in the days immediately following 9/11. He was awarded the Bronze Star for exemplary performance in combat.

Joe's duties in the Army included being a combat platoon leader in Baghdad, Iraq, followed by serving as an aide-de-camp to the assistant division commander of the 1st Armored Division and a strategic advisor to the director of strategic communications for NATO in Afghanistan. In that capacity he developed key leader engagement strategies and priorities, served as a liaison between NATO and special forces from various countries, provided interface with other governmental agencies, and developed and executed NATO plans for responses to civilian casualty incidents.

Joe has been a board member at Veterans Legal Services since 2015. At VLS, Joe serves on the Education & Outreach Committee and has previously served on the Development Committee and Honoree Sub-committee.

Joe is married to Veronika Goodwin and lives in Boston with their sons Alexander and Lucas.

Presenting Sponsors



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Thank You

VLS depends on the support of grants, private donations, and pro bono attorneys and partners with veteran-serving organizations to deliver services.

VLS is proud to receive funding from the organizations below and supporters like you!
Thank you.



Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Legal Services for
Veterans Program

Dept. of Veterans Affairs
Supportive Services for
Veteran Families Program

Thank you to Samuel Adams
for the generous donation of
refreshments tonight.





VETERANS


LEGAL SERVICES

Ways to Give

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- ★ By credit card or check at the registration desk tonight!
- ★ Through your donor advised fund
- ★ Mail a check to Veterans Legal Services



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