## Veterans' Legal Issues, Considerations, and Resources Thursday June 27th | Boston & Live Streamed

## Resources for Judicial/Court Staff

Judicial/court staff may encounter cases that involve unique issues facing military veterans. They may wish to consult the following resources to help them address those issues.

## **General Resources**

Legal Services Corporation (LSC) Veterans Task Force Report (2021)	The Veterans Task Force's report identifies ways to strengthen the relationship between legal aid providers and other veterans-serving organizations. It highlights best practices and model programs that provide effective, integrated services to veterans and offers tips for replicating successful programs. <u>https://lsc-live.app.box.com/s/buoeznt4t7284462luqxcvqg1p1lnatu</u>
Military Sexual Trauma (MST)	People of all genders, ages, sexual orientations, racial and ethnic backgrounds, and branches of service have experienced MST. 1 in 3 women veterans and 1 in 50 men veterans in the VA healthcare system report experiencing MST. Like other types of trauma, MST can negatively affect a person's mental and physical health, even many years later. Visit the Veterans Affairs website to learn more about MST. https://www.mentalhealth.va.gov/msthome/index.asp



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

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## State Specific Resources

Swords to Plowshares (CA)	Swords to Plowshares is a San Francisco Bay Area-based nonprofit that assists veterans who have low income and/or who are unhoused, and only with VA benefits claims and discharge upgrades cases. 1060 Howard Street. San Francisco, CA 94103. (415) 252-4788 <u>legalreferrals@stp-sf.org</u>
Connecticut Veterans Legal Center (CT)	Connecticut Veterans Legal Center provides free legal assistance to Connecticut veterans to help them overcome legal barriers to housing, healthcare, and income. For court clerk/staff inquiries only: Felix Chaoulideer, Chief of Staff <u>fchaoulideer@ctveteranslegal.org</u>
Veterans Legal Clinic at the Legal Service Center at Harvard Law School (MA)	The Veterans Legal Clinic represents veterans and their family members when they cannot afford an attorney in matters such as state and federal veterans benefits, discharge upgrades, and estate planning. For court clerk/staff inquiries only: Lisa Musto, Paralegal/Pro Bono Coordinator: Imusto@law.harvard.edu
Veterans Legal Services (MA)	Veterans Legal Services provides free civil legal help to veterans in Massachusetts. Practice areas include: family, housing, debt, and benefits law, as well as discharge upgrades. For court clerk/staff inquiries only: Anna Richardson, Co-Executive Director & Chief Counsel anna@veteranslegalservices.org