VETERAN VICTORIES

When Gary T. first came to CVLC looking for help adjusting an old debt, he was living in his car. While working with CVLC, Gary found himself unable to fill a prescription due to a sudden denial of VA benefits. For more than 25 years, he had been receiving assistance for his PTSD and other disabling conditions resulting from his service in Vietnam. CVLC sued the VA and won, immediately gaining reinstatement of Gary’s VA benefits, as well as a discharge upgrade. Sadly, his story is not unique, as nearly half of CVLC’s cases involve veterans’ termination of benefits due to discharge status. Gary hopes his experience helps others:

“If I can help one veteran by telling my story, I’ll be happy.”

THANK YOU TO OUR SUPPORTERS! CVLC is an independent non-profit and could not do our work without the many generous companies, foundations, & individuals who fund our work.


CONNECTICUT VETERANS LEGAL CENTER

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2018 REPORT

You have changed my brother from a life of sadness, pressure, fear, concern, financial uncertainty, difficulty, and daily trying to cope, to one of HOPE. For the first time in years, I sense relief and an upbeat feeling in his voice.

- Brother of CVLC Client
More than 56% of CVLC clients have experienced homelessness. Last year we closed 92 housing cases with a 90% success rate of increasing housing stability for veteran families.

Because of CVLC’s legal service, I have a roof over my head. And not only a roof, I have security as to what to do next. I wouldn’t have a home if it weren’t for my lawyer.

- A.H., Army Veteran

CVLC and its partners published research in Health Affairs demonstrating that CVLC’s clients experience improved mental health and decreased homelessness. The Bristol-Myers Squibb Foundation funded the study.

We found a reduction of hostility, anxiety, and paranoia, as well as improvement in income and fewer days homeless among those who received help from medical-legal partnerships.

- Jack Tsai
Associate Professor of Psychiatry,
Yale School of Medicine

CVLC is the only legal aid organization in the state that helps veterans assert their rights before the Dept. of Defense and the Dept. of Veterans Affairs. Without legal help few veterans prevail; nearly 50% of cases are rejected on purely procedural reasons.

- CVLC lifted 36 veterans out of poverty by securing their rightful VA disability pensions. Average award was $18,530 per year.
- 64% of cases resulted in retroactive awards. CVLC garnered $642,000 for veterans, helping them to erase crippling debt, secure housing, and plan for the future.
- 34 veterans gained health care last year. Some have waited decades for their benefits.

CVLC nearly doubles our impact through cultivating, training, and supporting our passionate pro bono network.

- 155 lawyers took 242 cases, providing an estimated $900,000 in legal representation.
- CVLC trained 1,000 lawyers nationally on representing veterans in discharge upgrade cases.

Once I saw the dedication, energy and effectiveness of the CVLC efforts, I was hooked. As a veteran, I especially appreciate the services CVLC provides, as the faces of its clients are the faces of former squadronmates, shipmates, crewmen, and friends.

- Kevin Lenehan
Senior Counsel, Sikorsky Aircraft, CVLC Board Chair

CVLC is an independent non-profit and relies on donations and grants to do our work. For every $1 invested in CVLC, $10 is created for a veteran in the form of increased income, reduced debt, and access to health care. Together with our donors, we generated the following value:

- Lump sum awards totaling $1.5 million
- Annual income awards totaling $614,000
- $950,000 in pro bono legal representation