

**National Association of  
Women Judges  
Serving our Veterans Legal Needs  
through Collaboration**

**The Role of Law Schools, Lawyers, and the Bench in  
Meeting the Pressing Legal Needs of Veterans**

# Top Three VA Priorities

- 1) **Ending Homelessness Among Veterans by 2015.**
- 2) **Eliminating the Backlog of Claims by 2015.**
- 3) **Increasing access to VA facilities and services.**

# **Community Homelessness Assessment, Local Education and Networking Groups (CHALENG) Survey**

## **Top Unmet Needs**

- \* # 3 Eviction or Foreclosure Proceedings**
- \* #4 Child Support Issues**
- \* #5 Restoring Driver's Licenses**
- \* #6 Outstanding Warrants & Fines**

# Veterans Need Representation

- \* **Most veteran claimants are not represented, but representation is instrumental in helping them achieve positive results.**
- \* **Many Veterans receive great assistance from VSOs in Filing Initial Claims.**
- \* **Need for More Attorneys on Disability Appeals & Other Matters.**

# **Partnering to Increase Veterans' Access to VA Facilities and Services**

- \* Partnerships increase veterans' access to legal services.**
- \* Reduces homelessness and improves veterans' health outcomes and quality of life.**
- \* Each OGC Region has a designated Veterans Justice Outreach Liaison.**

# Veterans Justice Outreach Program

- \* **247 Veterans Justice Outreach (VJO) Specialists, an increase of 75 since 2012.**
- \* **The VJOs ensure that veteran/defendants get the medical treatment they need.**
- \* **VJOs also actively support the 260 Veterans Treatment Courts (VTCs).**

# Veterans Legal Clinics

- \* VA hosts 47 different organizations in 44 VA facilities.
- \* There are currently 25 law school legal clinics, up from 18 in 2011.

# Vision for the Future

- \* **Bridging the Gap in Access to Legal Services for Veterans**
- \* **Facilitating Representation for Veterans in Benefits Appeals**
- \* **Serving Those Who Served**