

KATRINA J. EAGLE, ATTORNEY AT LAW

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KATRINA J. EAGLE represents veterans nationwide in a wide array of issues involving benefit entitlements by the Department of Veterans Affairs. She represents veterans before all 58 VA Regional Offices, the Board of Veterans' Appeals, the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC), as well as the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

Ms. Eagle has presented oral argument as veterans' counsel and amicus curiae in cases at the CAVC. Noteworthy cases include *Harvey v. Shinseki*, 24 Vet. App. 284 (2011) (sanctioning VA Secretary for failure to handle appeal expeditiously) and *Freeman v. Shinseki*, 24 Vet. App. 404 (2011) (holding that veteran beneficiaries now have same right to appeal fiduciary appointment as any other VA decision affecting benefits). Ms. Eagle also has extensive experience training veterans service representatives, attorneys and other veterans' advocates, and is a frequent speaker before state bar associations, veterans service organizations and at legal seminars.

Legal Experience

Ms. Eagle began assisting military veterans as a legislative analyst on Capitol Hill for the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW) in October 1995. In this capacity, she attended Congressional hearings regarding veterans' issues and prepared corresponding written reports. Ms. Eagle also met with Congressional members and staff to discuss and explain pertinent VFW initiatives. She assisted in drafting veterans-related as well as VFW representatives' testimonies, speeches, articles, and correspondence. She also coordinated and spearheaded legislative campaigns for VFW's grassroots lobbying network. While working with the VFW, Ms. Eagle began to pursue her law degree in the evening program at The George Mason School of Law.

In February 1998, she was recruited as Deputy Director for the Veterans Benefits Program of Vietnam Veterans of America (VVA). As Deputy Director, Ms. Eagle represented VVA member-claimants before the US Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the VA's Board of Veterans' Appeals and assisted the Director with the training and advising of 300 VVA Service Representatives

nationwide. She also represented VVA on numerous veteran-related panels and advisory boards, and drafted veteran-related articles for VVA publication. Ms. Eagle also met and provided claim analyses and consultations to VVA members regarding their VA benefit entitlements and eligibility.

In January of 1999, she joined Health Policy Analysts in Washington, DC, where, as an associate analyst, she focused on veterans' health issues, most notably hepatitis C and diabetes mellitus. This role also helped Ms. Eagle realize that providing legal counsel to veterans appealing their VA benefits claims was her true passion, thereby guiding her decision to join The Law Office of Wildhaber & Associates, PLLC, in January 2001.

From January 2001 to August 2008, Ms. Eagle was the lead attorney of the west coast office of The Law Office of Wildhaber & Associates, PLLC, and concentrated her law practice in the area of federal veterans' benefits, including practice before the US Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), which includes the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. She also represents clients in U.S. District Courts for claims of medical malpractice committed at VA hospitals and, or medical centers.

Then, in August 2008, she co-founded The Veterans Law Office of Eagle & Wildhaber, LLP, where she managed a thriving law partnership assisting America's veterans and their families obtain the VA benefits to which they are entitled until December 2010. From January to April 2011, Ms. Eagle served as Director of the Veterans Services Group of Finkelstein & Partners, LLP. In April 2011, Ms. Eagle established her solo practice and has continued to represent only military veterans and their family members in veterans benefits-related matters.

Ms. Eagle's dedication to veteran advocacy was also recognized by her colleagues when she was elected as Vice President of NOVA, Inc. (National Organization of Veteran Advocates) from 2007 to 2009, and as NOVA's President from 2009 to 2011. Ms. Eagle is also active in local veteran groups, having worked as co-chair of the Military Law Committee of the San Diego County Bar Association and as an active member of the United Veterans Council.

Education

Katrina Eagle graduated with a B.A. in International Affairs in 1993 from The George Washington University in Washington, DC. While attending GWU, she earned a fellowship with Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR), where she

assisted in the development of fact sheets, position papers, and legislative alerts for health professionals regarding global environmental degradation. During the summers of 1992 and 1993, she worked with the US Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board ("The Access Board") as a document specialist, translating publications regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) into alternate formats such as Braille and audio formats. Ms. Eagle received her law degree (JD) in 1999 from the George Mason University School of Law in Arlington, VA.

Community and Pro Bono Service

Since July of 2003, Ms. Eagle volunteers every year at the Homeless Court Program, an integral part of Stand Down. During this three-day annual event, she provides legal assistance to homeless veterans who have had minor run-ins with local law enforcement. By working with lawyers from the District Attorney's Office, she has succeeded in minimizing sentences or, in most cases, clearing the veteran's record. In addition, she assists homeless veterans obtain legal and job counseling, and medical assistance, among other provisions.

In May 2009, Ms. Eagle and fellow veterans' advocate Rick Little created the Pro Bono Advocates Program for NOVA and the Center for Veterans Advancement. Since its inception, Ms. Eagle has led the program by obtaining in excess of \$250,000 in VA service-connected compensation for homeless veterans.

Bar Memberships and Professional Affiliations

National Organization of Veterans' Advocates; President, 11/2009
National Organization of Veterans' Advocates; Vice President, 12/2007
Federal Bar Association, Veterans Law Section, 2009
Military Law Committee, San Diego County Bar Assoc; Co-Chair, 2007-2009
Supreme Court of the United States, 2010
Supreme Court of the State of California, 2001
United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, 2000
Court of Appeals of Maryland, 2000 (inactive)
Accredited Service Representative of AVVA, 2011
Accredited Service Representative of United Spinal Association, 2006-2010
Accredited Service Representative of VVA, 1998-2006

Professional Honors and Awards

Legion of Honor Award (The Chapel of Four Chaplains), 2/2008

U.S. Navy's "Leaders to Sea" Participant, *USS Lake Champlain* (CG-57), 6/2007

Public Presentations and Publications

"Keep Veterans' Claims Alive"

Trial Magazine, Oct 2011 (co-authored with Douglas J. Rosinski, Esq.)

"More Arrows for the CVSO's Quiver: Different (New) Ways to Help Veterans Obtain Their Benefits"

National Assoc. of County Veterans Service Officers' Annual Conference
Biloxi, MS / June 2011

"CAVC Decisions Re Medical-Nexus Opinions for Service-Connection Claims"

OH State Assoc. of County Veterans Service Officers' Spring Conference,
Cleveland, OH / May 2011

"A Claim for TDIU: It's Official -- It's **NOT** a New Claim!"

OH State Assoc. of County Veterans Service Officers' Fall Conference,
Columbus, OH / October 2010

"Medical Conditions Related to Service-Connected Conditions: Grant or No Grant?"

OH State Assoc. of County Veterans Service Officers' Fall Conference,
Columbus, OH / October 2010

"The VA Denied Your Client's Application for Service-Connected Benefits -- Now What?"

National Association of Legal Assistants (NALA) 2010 Annual Convention,
Jacksonville, FL / July 2010

"Elements of a Service-Connection Claim, and the Type of Evidence Needed for Each Element"

National Organization of Social Security Claimant Representatives (NOSSCR),
New Orleans, LA / May 2010

"Salute the Soldiers: VA Benefits for Veterans and Their Families"

TX State Bar Advanced Elder Law Conference, Dallas, TX / April 2010

"An Appellate Practice Overview: When and How To Appeal to the Veterans Court "

NJ State Assoc. of County Veterans Service Officers' Spring Conference,
Atlantic City, NJ / October 2009

"Recent Court Decisions That Impact the County VSO -- and Why"

National Assoc. of County Veterans Service Officers' Annual Conference,
San Diego, CA / June 2009

"An Overview of a Veteran Advocate's Appellate Practice: How To Navigate the BVA and the Veterans Court"

NC State Assoc. of County Veterans Service Officers' Spring Conference,
Atlantic Beach, NC / April 2009

"Veterans Facing Criminal Charges – How a Community of Professionals Can Serve Those Who Served Our Country"

Nevada Lawyer Magazine, November 2008 (co-authored w/Steve Binder, Esq.)

"Winning Presumptive Service-Connection Claims for Veterans Exposed to Agent Orange and, or Radiation"

NOVA New Practitioner Seminar; San Francisco, CA / September 2008

"How to Challenge a VA Proposal to Reduce or Sever Service-Connected Compensation" and "VCAA Notice Requirements" – Advance Service Rep Training Seminar, Orlando, FL / August 2008

"A Notice of Disagreement Has Been Filed – Now What?"

Oregon State Bar Association Seminar re Veterans Law / March 14, 2008

"An Introduction to Veterans Benefits Law"

Tennessee Bar Association Teleseminar; February 2008

"Claimants, Medical Conditions, and Ancillary Issues Unique to An Advocate's Practice"

NOVA New Practitioner Seminar; Washington, DC / October 2007

"Defending the Military Veteran: Representing Veterans with Disabilities at the VA and Beyond"

National Organization of Social Security Claimant Representatives (NOSSCR),
St. Louis, MO / October 2007

"Practicing Veterans Law Since June 2007"

National Association of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA) Conference,
Boston, MA / September 2007

“Common Errors in VARO Decisions; and How to Determine Whether the VA Medical Opinion Is To Blame” – Advance Service Rep Training Seminar, Orlando, FL / August 2007

“Representing Veterans At The US Veterans Court”
American Assoc for Justice (AAJ), Telephonic Seminar Panelist, May 2007

“Advocating for America’s Veterans” – An On-Air Interview
The American Veteran Radio Show / San Diego, CA / February 2007

“An Overview of a Veteran Advocate’s Practice at the US Veterans Court”
NOVA Seminar, May of 2007

"Recent Court Decisions"
NOVA Seminars, March of 2003, November of 2004, November of 2005

“The Role of a VVA Accredited Service Representative”
VVA Annual Convention, Reno, NV, August of 2005

"Filing Service-Connection Claims for Hepatitis C and Diabetes Mellitus"
NOVA Seminar, September of 2002

"Hepatitis C and the Military Veteran"
State of Montana VVA Convention, August of 1999

"Hepatitis C Outbreak Amongst Native Americans"
Conference of Alaska State Public Health Officials, June of 1999