

# GET INVOLVED WITH VLI



## THE POWER OF A CONSULTATION

Many in vulnerable communities (like homeless or disabled individuals) can commonly be brushed off.

Listening to a veteran's story can validate their experience, making the veteran feel heard.

A veteran might feel comfortable navigating the legal system with your legal advice under their belt, building their confidence.

Attorneys can give advice beyond what the court's self help center can provide, like legal strategy or what to expect in a courtroom.

## VOLUNTEER AT A CLINIC

VLI offers different ways to participate in a clinic:

1. A one-off consultation in a practice area of your expertise (i.e. family law)
2. General intake interview and advice (i.e. virtually at a Veteran Service Office [VSO] or at the Long Beach VA Hospital once public clinics resume).

## TAKE A CASE PRO BONO

What may be a quick and easy case for you is also a source of anxiety and fear for a veteran.

## JOIN A NON-LEGAL COMMITTEE

Join our Lawyers for Warriors planning committee! This event is our yearly fundraiser that helps fund our attorneys.

## MARKETING

Co-author an article with us. Follow us on social media and spread the word about our services.

**Visit [www.vetslegal.org](http://www.vetslegal.org) or contact [kbinkley@vetslegal.com](mailto:kbinkley@vetslegal.com) for more information.**



@veteranslegalinstitute



facebook.com/veteranslegalinstitute

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**Would you Consider Taking a Case Pro Bono from VLI? Look Below  
and Contact Us with the Case you are Interested In!**

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**BREACH OF CONTRACT/ CONSUMER / CONSTRUCTION**

**HELP NEEDED IN CONTRACT DISPUTE WITH HOME CONSTRUCTION  
COMPANY  
VLI CASE # 21-09769**

A 70 year-old Army veteran needs help in a dispute with a home construction company. The veteran and his wife recently purchased a newly constructed home and the construction company they purchased the home from offered a 1 year warranty. Although the company has agreed to make and made several repairs, there is a particular portion of the driveway which was improperly constructed, which the company refuses to act on. Several neighbors in the same complex have had the same issue resolved by the construction company. [Contact Bryan Beard for more information.](#)

**REAL ESTATE LIEN RELEASE  
VLI CASE # 21-09679**

A 72 year-old Army veteran seeks help with a partial lien release from his property. This veteran has been trying to obtain a partial lien release by dividing his property, but the lender has been uncooperative, and the veteran would like someone to help him move the process along. [Contact Bryan Beard for more information.](#)

**HELP NEEDED RECOVERING VALUE OF PROPERTY DAMAGED FROM  
BURST PIPE  
VLI CASE # 21-09650**

A 64 year old quadriplegic veteran needs help suing his property management company for damage to his property, as well as for a reduction in rent based on habitability concerns. In February of 2020, a pipe burst in his apartment, and there was flooding which resulted in property damage, including his clothes, television, and other electronic equipment. Additionally, tests conducted afterwards confirmed

the presence of both mold and asbestos. The veteran has been trying to get compensation for both of these developments from the management company, but has had no luck so far. [Contact Bryan Beard for more information.](#)

**HELP NEEDED RETRIEVING EMOTIONAL SUPPORT ANIMAL  
VLI CASE # 21-09641**

A 42 year old Marine Corps veteran needs help recovering his emotional support animal from an ex who refuses to give him back. This veteran has had his dog, Raiden, since 2012, but lent the dog to his girlfriend in 2019. Now, after they broke up, she is refusing to return Raiden to his rightful owner. She has taken the dog to Hawaii, and the veteran is desperate to get him back. This veteran has documentation that demonstrates he did not give her the dog, that he merely lent him to her. [Contact Bryan Beard for more information.](#)

**HELP NEEDED WITH IDENTITY THEFT AND JUDGMENT LIEN  
VLI CASE # 21-09588**

A 65 year-old Army veteran seeks help having a lien removed from his house. While out of the country on military orders in 2018, someone fraudulently rented a car in this veteran's name and was in a car accident. Now a lien has been placed on his house, and he needs help fighting this judgment and moving on with his life. [Contact Bryan Beard for more information.](#)

**CIVIL LAWSUIT ASSISTANCE- UNPAID CREDIT CARD DEBT  
VLI CASE # 20-09388**

Widow of a 20-year retired Marine Corps veteran is being sued by a creditor due to unpaid credit card debt she cannot afford and is seeking assistance fighting the suit or, in the alternative, negotiating a settlement with the creditor. The widow has, with VLI's assistance, filed a general denial and fee waiver in the case, and as of 12/21 no hearing date has been set. [Contact Andrew Alton for more information.](#)

**CONTRACTS AND WARRANTIES  
VLI CASE # 20-09469**

Catastrophically disabled and bedridden veteran, through his conservator, seeks assistance in potentially bringing a lawsuit against a moving company for breach of contract and property damage including damage to critically necessary medical

equipment. After the veteran was given a quote for moving all property and accepted, the moving service began performing services but refused to move property which was included in the quote without additional payment. The veteran did not accept and the property in question was left at the old residence. Among the property that was in fact moved was a necessary medical device and an antique glass, both of which were damaged beyond further use by the movers and which require replacement. In addition, despite not moving all of the property, and only after arriving at the new residence with the other property in tow, the movers demanded payment of approx. \$2,000 over the quoted amount, to be paid on the spot in cash, or else the movers would refuse to release custody of the property. Under these conditions, the veteran was forced to pay as demanded. The veteran estimates total damages at approx. \$20,000. **Contact Andrew Alton for more information.**

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## **COLLECTIONS**

### **LEMON LAW/ CONTRACT DISPUTE (SCRA) VLI CASE #19-04010**

Client is active duty military stationed in Texas. He left California and defaulted on a used vehicle that presented with many mechanical errors that were undisclosed upon the sale. Client's vehicle was repossessed and he was called up to active duty out-of-state. In his absence, an action was filed for recovery of the unpaid balance remaining on the vehicle, which he no longer has. The next hearing for the case (originally set for March 4, 2020 but has been delayed for approximately 1 year) will be an update regarding his military status, but eventually he will need to defend his case on the merits. The name on the contract is not the client's name. The evidence used to support the complaint is a completely different person than the client. He needs a consultation and possibly someone to appear at subsequent hearings if necessary. **Contact Daniel Duffield for more information.**

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## **CONSERVATORSHIP**

### **CONSERVATORSHIP VLI CASE # 21-09625**

64-year old Air Force veteran's wife is conserved by the State of California. Client would like to become his wife's conservator. [Contact Scot Douglas for more information.](#)

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## **DISCHARGE UPGRADE**

The client is a combat Marine who served from 2002 to 2007 during Operation Iraqi Freedom. When he returned stateside he developed severe PTSD which he self-medicated with alcohol. His PTSD led to two incidents of "Absent without leave" (AWOL) and ultimately a Bad Conduct Discharge. Despite his clear mental health condition, his command failed to provide him any support upon his return from combat. The Veteran is seeking an discharge upgrade to allow him to access VA healthcare and disability compensation. [Contact Andrew Alton for more information.](#)

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## **ESTATE PLANNING**

### **POWERS OF ATTORNEY OR CONSERVATORSHIP VLI CASE #20-09372**

The family of a 72-year old, Marine Corps Vietnam Veteran, who has been diagnosed with both dementia and Alzheimer's would like either a Durable Power of Attorney and Advanced Health Care Directive or the appropriate Conservatorships in order to protect the veteran from poor financial decisions and to help him get medical care. [Contact Scot Douglas for more information.](#)

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## **EXPUNGEMENTS / TRAFFIC / DMV**

### **VIETNAM MARINE VETERAN SEEKS REDUCTION TO MISDEMEANOR of 1975 OC FELONY POSSESSION CONVICTION VLI CASE #21-09728**

A 68-yr old Vietnam-Era Marine Veteran wishes to clear up his record and asks that his expunged felony for 11350 HS simple possession conviction in Orange County from 1975 be reduced to a misdemeanor. He has a recent Record of Arrest and Prosecution Sheet from DOJ that shows the case was expunged in 1978 pursuant to 1203.4 but remained a felony. He is seeking the assistance of a criminal defense attorney to have this felony reduced to a misdemeanor pursuant to 17(b) so that he will no longer be a convicted felon. [Contact Nithin Reddy for more information.](#)

**ASSISTANCE NEEDED WITH CALIFORNIA DMV HOLD  
VLI CASE #21-09568**

A 65 year-old Navy veteran seeks help having a hold removed by the California DMV. The veteran is a New Mexico resident, but the California DMV has placed a hold on his New Mexico driving record which is preventing him from having his license renewed, and he would like help dealing with the California DMV and getting to the bottom of this issue. [Contact Bryan Beard for more information.](#)

**ARMY VETERAN SEEKS ASSISTANCE REINSTATING DRIVER'S LICENSE  
VLI CASE #20-09328**

Veteran needs the help of an attorney to reinstate his drivers license that was suspended for failure to pay traffic tickets. The client couldn't afford the tickets, and as the fines piled up the amount became unsurmountable. He hasn't had a driver's license in years and came to VLI for help. [Contact Katie Binkley for more information.](#)

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**FAMILY LAW / CONSERVATORSHIPS**

**DEFAULT WITH AGREEMENT ASSISTANCE NEEDED VETERAN NEEDS HELP  
REGARDING UNPAID JOINT DEBT AND TO DEFEND AGAINST POTENTIAL  
FRIVOLOUS THERAT TO FILE DVRO FILING  
VLI CASE #20-09433**

A veteran was in a relationship with a partner and recently broke up. During the relationship the veteran entered into a personal loan contract with the partner to borrow \$10,000. The money was used by the partner in the refinancing of her separate property house, as she put more money into the outstanding debt when she refinanced. The veteran has since learned that she has not made two month's

payments and so the veteran's credit rating has been affected. The former partner is also threatening to file a request for a domestic violence restraining order against the veteran on trumped up charges (nothing has been filed yet). The veteran is seeking counsel to protect his interests. [Contact Andrew Alton for more information.](#)

**RECOVERING UNPAID RENT FROM FORMER PARTNER  
VLI CASE #20-09456**

Veteran is seeking assistance recovering approx. \$25,000 from his former partner who habitually failed to pay her half of rent as agreed over the course of three years and who also ran up excessive mileage on a leased car in both of their names and then refused to pay the resulting charges. The veteran has been left with a large amount of debt due to this that he has been paying in the interest of protecting his own credit. [Contact Andrew Alton for more information.](#)

**VETERAN REQUESTS ONGOING CONSULT TO HELP WITH HIS DIVORCE  
VLI CASE #20-09436**

Veteran seeks assistance in the form of an ongoing consultation with respect to his divorce. The divorce is largely amicable, there is no real estate at issue and the parties have separate cars, bank accounts, and have only adult children. The veteran does, however, have retirement benefits that may be community property. The veteran seeks counsel to ensure his interests are protected here. [Contact Andrew Alton for more information.](#)

**VETERAN SEEKS ASSISTANCE GAINING PRIMARY CUSTODY OF HIS SON  
AND PURSUING REMEDIES AGAINST FORMER PARTNER FOR BREACH OF  
COURT ORDER RELATED TO PERSONAL PROPERTY**

**VLI CASE #21-09517**

Veteran seeks assistance gaining primary custody of his 13 year old son from the child's mother. The child and the child's therapist support such action, as the child believes his environment at his mother's home is hostile. Veteran will need mediation and assistance filing for change of custody orders as well as support modification. The veteran is also interested in pursuing remedies for breach of fiduciary issues resulting from his former partner apparently disposing of multiple items of the veteran's personal property in violation of a court order. [Contact Andrew Alton for more information.](#)

**OC UNCONTESTED DISSOLUTION WITH AGREEMENT**

**VLI CASE #20-09435**

Navy veteran would like assistance obtaining a divorce. The parents agree to joint custody and have a pre-existing timeshare schedule they already adhere to. Parties mutually agree to waive spousal support, child support, and any interests in each other's retirement accounts. No petition has been filed yet. [Contact Katie Binkley for more information.](#)

**NAVY VET SEEKS OC ASSISTANCE WITH CHILD SUPPORT, CUSTODY, &  
DVRO  
VLI CASE #20-08709**

A 41-year-old Navy Veteran seeks legal assistance with an originally mutual consent divorce that has now developed issues with respect to child support, custody and domestic violence. She is requesting a protective order for herself as her spouse has turned abusive. She has also come to learn that the father is neglecting her son's well being, including not taking their son to assigned counseling and not properly homeschooling him. She seeks legal assistance so that her son receives the counseling and schooling that rightly he deserves. [Contact Nithin Reddy for more information.](#)

**ARMY MOM SEEKS DIVORCE IN SAN BERNARDINO COUNTY  
VLI CASE # 20-09386**

Veteran client seeks to file for divorce from her spouse after learning of abuse upon her child from a prior relationship. A restraining order has been granted, giving the client sole possession of the community property home. Charges are imminent from the district attorney's office against the spouse, and the spouse has retained counsel with respect to that charge. No filings have been submitted as of yet. [Contact Katie Binkley for more information.](#)

**OC ADOPTION ASSISTANCE NEEDED  
VLI CASE # 20-09439**

Navy veteran took in his godson and cared for him for a year while the child's mother (his family member) was in and out of homelessness. When he took the child for medical attention after he got hurt, the hospital found drugs in the child's system. Later testing showed only negative results. CPS learned he was not the parent and removed the child from his home. He tried to adopt the child at the time, though he was told he didn't have sufficient residence as he also battled periodic

homelessness. He is now in a stable home and would like to adopt his godson to get him out of foster care. [Contact Katie Binkley for more information.](#)

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## LANDLORD / TENANT

### ASSISTANCE NEEDED FOR RECOVERING VALUE OF PROPERTY DESTROYED BY LANDLORD VLI Case #21-09553

A 70 year old Navy veteran seeks help recovering the value of destroyed property. After being evicted back in October of 2020, the veteran, who is elderly and infirm, was not able to take all of her possessions with her. After returning the following week to recover the property, she learned that the landlord had thrown it all away. She seeks help recovering the value of the property, which she values at approximately \$15,000. [Contact Bryan Beard for more information.](#)

### COMMERCIAL EVICTION JUDGMENT ASSISTANCE NEEDED VLI Case #21-09507

A 47 year old Army veteran seeks help overturning a default judgment for a commercial lease. Several years ago, this veteran operated a small business that faced tough times and had to close. Years later, he learned that he now has an eviction on his record for breaking the commercial lease. He paid off the balance, but seeks help overturning the judgment and recovering some of the money back. He never received notice of any eviction hearing, despite living at the same address for the entire time. [Contact Bryan Beard for more information.](#)

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## NONPROFIT LAW / SMALL BUSINESS

### SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE VLI CASE # 21-09757

61-year old Navy veteran has discovered an opportunity to export mining machinery to Africa, and would like assistance setting up a business to do so. [Contact Scot Douglas for more information.](#)

**SMALL BUSINESS SEEKS CORPORATE STRUCTURE ADVICE AND  
NONPROFIT INCORPORATION FOR EQUINE THERAPY WING OF BUSINESS  
VLI Case #TBD**

100% USMC disabled veteran who served in Vietnam owns a physical therapy business in partnership with another disabled female veteran and one civilian. Their business is certified as owned by a disabled veteran. They are seeking advice on how to hold the company for the future in case one leaves and also want to create a nonprofit equine therapy wing. Client seeks consultation about corporate structure and assistance with incorporating the nonprofit wing of his private business. **Contact Antoinette Balta for more information.**

**SMALL BUSINESS ASSISTANCE NEEDED  
VLI Case #21-09487**

A 44 year old Navy veteran seeks help forming a small theatre business. She seeks help drafting the required documents and advice for submission and formation procedures. For more information, please contact Bryan Beard. **Contact Bryan Beard for more information.**

**BUSINESS MERGER  
VLI Case #20-09377**

100% disabled Navy combat veteran needs assistance merging his catering business with that of his business partner's. The catering business is currently registered as a veteran owned business with the GSA and currently provides catering services to the government on military bases for official events. The merged business will be engaged in these same activities. **Contact Andrew Alton for more information.**

**NONPROFIT CREATION AND INCORPORATION  
VLI Case #20-09336**

26-year old Air Force Veteran is seeking assistance in forming a Non-profit Organization. The intent to form an NPO called the Inland Empire Unity Conference to hold an annual community event to bring unity to the community through Jesus Christ by having an all-day community field day event with live worship and a discussion panel to discuss topics that create division in the community. **Contact Scot Douglas for more information.**

## PROBATE

### DISABLED FEMALE VETERAN SEEKS MINOR PROBATE ASSISTANCE VLI Case #20-09466

34-year old, disabled, female, Navy veteran seeks assistance in recovering an account that her deceased father had in a financial institution. The institution may be in Fresno. There are no beneficiary designations on the account, and her father was the only owner. The rest of the estate has been taken care of. [Contact Scot Douglas for more information.](#)

### PROBATE ASSISTANCE VLI Case #20-09365

100% disabled Air Force veteran requires assistance with the probate of his parents' estate. Both of the veteran's parents died in the past few months, and the veteran's siblings are executors of the estate. Veteran reports that the siblings are refusing to provide him with information regarding the size of the estate or how it will be divided. Veteran is aware of three real properties and a Roth IRA, but little as to the details of each as the siblings refuse to provide detailed information. Veteran seeks counsel to ensure he is not taken advantage of by his own family in this difficult time. [Contact Andrew Alton for more information.](#)

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## REAL ESTATE

### VETERAN NEEDS HELP WITH REAL PROPERTY BOUNDARY DISPUTE VLI CASE #20-09389

Client is a 72-year old disabled Army veteran who has a real property dispute with his neighbor. He and his wife purchased their home approximately one year ago and just recently realized that there is a boundary issue involving an existing wall that the neighbor built that is located on what they believe to be their property. The wall precludes them from accessing their utility boxes and meters. They would like an attorney to advise them regarding this quiet title boundary dispute with their neighbor. [Contact Bryan Beard for more information.](#)

**VETERAN NEEDS HELP NEGOTIATING WITH NEIGHBOR TO RESOLVE  
CONSTRUCTION/WATER INTRUSION DISPUTE  
VLI Case #20-09361**

Client is a 73-year old disabled Army veteran who has a real property dispute with his neighbor involving construction on the neighbor's property that has caused repeated instances of water intrusion into and flooding of the Client's home. The Client has contacted the City of Laguna Niguel and paid for a special investigation on the neighbor's property which cited a code violation and documented inadequate drainage. The city advised the Client that they take no action on association properties but to contact the HOA for action and follow up. The Client contacted the HOA and was told that the HOA does not get involved in neighbor to neighbor disputes. The Client has been unable to sleep at night for months, has lost 10 pounds, is concerned about the impending rainy season, and is experiencing mental health issues due to his service-connected disability and his inability to resolve this issue with the neighbor. The Client needs assistance negotiating a resolution of this dispute so that he and his wife can enjoy quiet enjoyment of their home. **Contact Bryan Beard for more information.**

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**TAX / BANKRUPTCY**

**TAX/ BANKRUPTCY ASSISTANCE**

**VLI Case # 20-09335**

A 51-year old disabled, post 9/11 veteran who was formerly homeless owes the FTB approximately \$9,600.00, has payment arrangements, but would like to settle. He also has not filed Fed Taxes for a number of years and believes that he owes approximately \$17,900.00. He also has approximately \$40,000.00 debt plus student loans. **Contact Scot Douglas for more information.**

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**VETERAN BENEFITS**

**BENEFITS FOR WIDOW OF KOREA WAR VETERAN**

**VLI CASE #20-09332**

90-year old disabled widow of a deceased Korean War needs assistance in obtaining financial benefits from the Department of Veterans Affairs. She has fallen many times and requires full-time assistance with activities of daily life including hygiene, meal prep, shopping. She has moderate memory/cognitive problems. **For additional information contact Scot Douglas.**

**VETERANS LEGAL INSTITUTE**  
VetsLegal.org

**SAVE THE DATE**  
**MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 2021**

**A SPECIAL EVENING HONORING OUR NATION'S VETERANS**  
Lawyers for Warriors  
Support-raising and Inspirational Networking Event

**TICKETS**  
In-Person Event: \$150 per person  
Virtual Ticket: \$50 per person  
Sponsorship and Underwriting Opportunities Available

**SPONSORSHIP INFORMATION**  
Antoinette Balta  
714-852-3492  
abalta@vetslegal.com

Tickets and sponsorship opportunities:  
[www.bit.ly/L4W2021](http://www.bit.ly/L4W2021)



**VLI is Platinum Rated!**

VLI has been rated as Platinum by Guidestar, the highest level of financial transparency by a nonprofit! Celebrate this feat with us today by making a tax deductible donation to help veterans [here](#).



**Help Vets When you Shop!**

Did you know that when you shop at AmazonSmile they will donate a percentage of your purchase at no cost to you? Just pick VLI as your charity organization of choice or click



**Attend a Clinic!**

We have general clinics at several sites around OC and at the VA Hospital in Long Beach and are seeking