

Honorees of The American Patriots Ball

Black tie optional, hero mandatory

Veterans Legal Institute (VLI), a unique, wholly military specific pro bono law firm, has served thousands of low income and homeless veterans over the course of a few years on a shoe string budget. Reflecting the values of service, its mantra is to serve those who have sacrificed so much for our

need a hand, occasionally, it is important to honor and celebrate a select few who go above and beyond.

To continue vital fundraising and to honor those individuals and organizations who make pro bono legal care possible, VLI is hosting its inaugural charity gala, The American Patriots Ball, on

mission. Through their dedication and compassion, these honorees ensure that those who have defended our freedoms live with greater hope, dignity, and promise.

VETERAN OF THE YEAR

Former U.S. Air Force Captain, Philip V. Brozenick, will be presented with the

the state. Notably, Philip directs Deloitte's ongoing pro bono efforts with the University of Southern California's Center for Innovation and Research on Veterans and Military Families (CIR). This work includes landmark veteran studies in Los Angeles, Chicago, and San Francisco. With a focused eye to the future, Philip also serves as a member of CIR's Leadership Council. Philip's leadership extends to mentoring and supporting of the American Corporate Partners Veteran Program, a life member of the Air Force Association, a strong proponent for Veterans Legal Institute, and Chair Emeritus of the VetFund Foundation, an impactful veteran organization which promotes and advocates for the interests of California's veterans.

Many VLI members selflessly dedicate hours to the mission of free legal service in an effort to promote housing, healthcare, education, and employment for veterans.

great nation. VLI relies on its small but powerful staff as well as a number of passionate and committed volunteers. While so many selflessly dedicate hours to the mission of free legal service in an effort to promote housing, healthcare, education, and employment for veterans who

September 22, 2018 at 5:30 pm at The Fashion Island Hotel in Newport Beach. This inspirational evening will welcome hundreds of community and business leaders for dancing, dining, and an exciting live auction. Our honorees are long-term partners who are perfect reflections of VLI's

Veteran of the Year Award. This award recognizes outstanding achievement to increase veteran well-being throughout the military and civilian communities. As a Principal with Deloitte, the world's largest professional services firm, Philip is their leader for veteran issues throughout



2018 VLI Gala Committee Members. Standing, L-R: Tony Wang, O'Melveny; Sherry Bragg, Weintraub, Sheila-Marie Finkelstein, Holstrom Block & Parke; Marc E. Hankin, Hankin Patent Law; Mischa Martineau, Martineau Systems; Ariana Mangum-Miramontes, Miramontes Capital; Michelle Highberg, Veterans Legal Institute; Michael Brewer, The Brewer Law Firm; Rochelle Karr, O'Melveny; Blas Villalobos, Chapman University; Debbie Buttacavoli, SYSPRO; Johnny Tai, Mueller Prost. Kneeling L-R: Antoinette Balta, Veterans Legal Institute; Lauren Grochow, Troutman Sanders; Adrienne Marshack, Manatt Phelps; Briana Richmond, Rutan & Tucker; KellyAnn Romanych, Veterans Legal Institute; Andrew Nelson, Friedman Stroffe & Gerard.

VETERAN ADVOCATE OF THE YEAR

Rochelle Karr, Director of Corporate Social Responsibility and Alumni Relations at the international law firm of O'Melveny & Myers LLP, will be receiving the Veteran Advocate of the Year Award. This award honors an individual who has gone above and beyond in engaging with the veteran community and seeking innovative solutions to help those who need it most. Rochelle aligns and integrates the firm's business strategy with its pro bono, philanthropic, veteran support, volunteerism, environmental sustainability, and scholarship initiatives. One of O'Melveny's largest targeted areas of focus is veteran issues, where members of the firm engage through pro bono representations, participation in their internal veteran advisory group, and connecting top corporate executives looking to hire veterans for important civil positions. Rochelle has connected and educated hundreds of decision-makers from top Southern California corporations to discuss the advantages of hiring veterans, going as far as bringing in guest speakers and heavyweights like retired U.S. Army General David Petraeus and Los Angeles Mayor Eric Garcetti. She has advocated for her firm to provide pro bono support and volunteerism to VLI and other veteran-serving organizations. It is for these reasons, among many others, that VLI recognizes Rochelle Karr for her dedicated advocacy of the veteran population.

COMMUNITY PARTNER OF THE YEAR

OC Women2Women will be honored with the VLI Community Partner of the Year award. This award recognizes an outstanding community organization that has worked closely with VLI to serve women veterans in Orange County. Founded by Karen Butera, MIRM, OC Women2Women



U.S. AIR FORCE

Philip Brozenick, U.S. Air Force



VLI

Philip Brozenick



VLI

Karen Butera



VLI

Rochelle Karr

is a nonprofit organization of community-minded people who make a difference in the lives of underserved women in Orange County. Karen Butera, a spirited entrepreneur and designer, is described by those closest to her as a force of nature, who serves her nation, her family, and her faith, all the while inspiring all those around her to commit to service. OC Women2Women works with select charitable organizations to enrich the lives of underprivileged women to achieve the dignity of work, self-sufficiency, and restoring their self-esteem.

The charitable giving raised from the American Patriots Ball fuels VLI's general operating fund, and its proceeds support service-minded nonprofit attorneys who dedicate no less than 55 hours per week advocating on behalf of veterans in need. In

2017 alone, VLI's team logged over 20,000 volunteer hours, all supported and guided by its staff of under 10. As a no-cost law firm, funds generated allow VLI to help veterans in need transition from homeless shelter to homeownership. One such case is Linda, a proud U.S. Army veteran who made her military career in flight operations. She came to VLI facing a court action by a major national bank for a loan she had already paid in full. Because of this action, she was blocked from buying property. "You take a big step owning your own home," Linda shared. "The bank attorney would not respond to my phone calls. It was crazy." VLI accepted Linda's case, contacted the bank's attorney, and was able to resolve the issue expediently, freeing Linda to finalize her transaction. With the case dismissed, Linda has

been able to buy and sell property three times and looks forward to an even brighter future.

You can help make more of these inspiring stories possible. Please consider joining us. There are many ways to become involved: join our pro bono attorney network; volunteer to provide your professional and personal talents; donate as an individual, or ask if your company, firm or organization would consider donating to support VLI's efforts; offer an exciting or rare experience to energize our live and silent auction efforts; or sponsor or underwrite as a corporate or business partner. To learn more, contact President and Co-Founder Antoinette Balta at abalta@vetslegal.com or visit VLI's website at www.veteranslegalinstitute.org.