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CONSUMER LAW

PREDATORY LENDING ASSISTANCE

VLI CASE # 25-18112

Marine Corp Veteran is seeking assistance in dealing with perceived predatory lending company. The Veteran took out a loan during COVID to keep his business running. The business became insolvent, however the Veteran worked with the lender to restructure the payment plan on several occasions. On each occasion, the repayment plan would escalate the payment amount and interest. The Veteran ultimately defaulted on the loan. He would now like assistance with renegotiating a fair repayment plan. [Contact Lisa Eyanson for more information.](#)

SENIOR ARMY VETERAN SCAMMED BY CONTRACTOR

VLI CASE # 25-17796

A 100% service connected disabled Army Veteran came to VLI when he fell victim to a dishonest contractor. The contract for services failed to comply with legal requirements for home improvement, the contractor charged the senior in excess of the value of services he provided, and ultimately abandoned the project--walking away with the client's money. The stress of the dispute is exacerbating his service-connected disabilities and he desperately seeks the help of an attorney. [Contact Katie Binkley for more information.](#)

DISCHARGE UPGRADES

DISCHARGE UPGRADE FOR NAVY VETERAN FROM BAD CONDUCT RESULTING FROM CONVICTION FROM SPECIAL COURT MARTIAL REGARDING ALLEGED GUN

VLI CASE # 25-17917

Navy veteran who served from 1986 to 1990, was given a bad conduct discharge for allegedly pulling a gun on his fellow sailor, but no gun was ever found. He was young and did not fully understand the legal system or the consequences it would have on his future, so he took a plea deal. A psychiatrist diagnosed him with suicidal depression and prescribed depression drugs. He is looking for help properly upgrading his discharge status. [Contact Ezekiel \(Zeke\) Bottorff for more information.](#)

DISCHARGE UPGRADE FOR ARMY VETERAN RESULTING FROM MARIJUANA USE

VLI CASE # 25-17960

Army veteran who served from 2021 to 2024, was discharged on a marijuana-related case. His one-time marijuana use appeared on his urinalysis drug tests. While leaving the service, he was diagnosed with PTSD. Veteran was under the impression that there was some a program in place to go from an E1 to an E4 status. Back issues caused him to miss training for EOD. He is looking for help properly upgrading his discharge status. [Contact Ezekiel \(Zeke\) Bottorff for more information.](#)

DISCHARGE UPGRADE FOR ARMY VETERAN FROM GENERAL (UHC) RESULTING FROM AWOL DUE TO MENTAL HEALTH CONDITIONS

VLI CASE # 25-17941

Army veteran who served from 2020 to 2025, was discharged because of an AWOL-related case. Veteran faced hazing during his time in the Army by his peers and superiors. Despite being labeled a flight risk and having his mental health conditions verified by medical professionals, his superiors ignored his requests against deployment and sent him to Korea. He tried to appeal this through leadership to little avail. He went AWOL and was discharged Under Honorable Conditions (General). He is looking for help properly upgrading his discharge status. [Contact Ezekiel \(Zeke\) Bottorff for more information.](#)

DISCHARGE UPGRADE FOR NAVY VETERAN FROM OTHER THAN HONORABLE RESULTING FROM SMOKING MARIJUANA IN ORDER TO BE SENT HOME SO SHE COULD VISIT HER MOTHER WITH CANCER VLI CASE

VLI CASE # 25-17387

Navy veteran who served from 2003 to 2004, was given an Other than Honorable discharge for allegedly smoking marijuana in order to be sent home so that she could pay a visit to her mother who had a tumor in her brain. During her time in the

Navy, she was sexually assaulted by the chief captain in the line shack. She has PTSD and anxiety from her service. She also experienced harassment based on her gender and sexual orientation. She volunteers for the homeless and has been taking online college courses for the past 6 months. She is currently looking for someone to help upgrade her discharge status. [Contact Ezekiel \(Zeke\) Bottorff for more information.](#)

DISCHARGE UPGRADE FOR ARMY VETERAN FROM OTHER THAN HONORABLE RESULTING FROM INCIDENT IN WHICH PLATOON LEADER PULLED A GUN ON HIM VLI CASE

VLI CASE # 25-18117

Navy veteran who served between 1995 and 1996 was given an Other Than Honorable discharge in 1996 after a platoon leader pulled a firearm on him. Veteran testified against the platoon leader, and this led to his OTH discharge. Since being separated from the military, he has earned his electrical license and enrolled in a discipleship program at House of Luke's Ministry. He and his son serve food every Wednesday at church. He is an active member of his community, volunteering for homeless veterans and women victims of domestic abuse. He believes that he was young and was not given a fair chance, especially considering that he has devoted his life post-military to philanthropy. He is looking for help properly upgrading his discharge status. [Contact Ezekiel \(Zeke\) Bottorff for more information.](#)

FAMILY LAW / CONSERVATORSHIPS / GUARDIANSHIPS

ACTIVE DUTY MARINE WITH BIFURCATION SEEKS FINAL PROPERTY ORDER IN OC

VLI CASE # 25-17833

Client is a nearly 20 year Marine with an Orange County dissolution case where the other party is represented by counsel. The court took status and the parties have agreements for custody and support. The only remaining issue is a division of the marital property. Client keeps diligent records and has sophisticated proposals, but would benefit from the support of counsel in limited scope settlement negotiations. [For more information, contact Katie Binkley.](#)

CONSERVATORSHIP

VLI CASE # 25-17589

80-year-old Navy veteran, who served during the Vietnam Era. Veteran has been diagnosed with severe dementia. Wife is currently his VA fiduciary and the Attorney-in-fact under a Durable Power of Attorney. No successor Agent was named. They are seeking a conservatorship so that the veteran can be taken care of if something happens to the wife. [Contact Scot Douglas for more information.](#)

REAL PROPERTY/ HOUSING

SENIOR ARMY VETERAN SEEKING TO ASSERT RIGHTS IN PROPERTY SALE PROCEEDS

VLI CASE #25-18394

Veteran invested his life savings, inheritance, manual labor and skill in repairing his daughter's home in exchange for the right to live there. She is undergoing a divorce now and intends on selling the property and wants dad out. She and her future ex-husband do not want to pay dad his invested amount which is over \$50,000. [Contact Stella Pogosyan for additional information.](#)

ARMY VETERAN SEEKING COMPENSATION FOR UNINHABITABLE CONDITIONS AND PROPERTY DAMAGE IN HOME

VLI CASE #24-16853

Army veteran and his family are seeking compensation for severe flooding and leaks in multiple rooms of their home over a period of nearly 2 years, with the worst incidents occurring during the fall of 2024. The landlord's failure to timely address the issues caused the problems to fester and escalate. The flooding was so severe that several walls and ceilings were destroyed and required complete replacement, which disrupted the family's lives for weeks and months at time and caused approximately \$20,000 in damage and loss to personal property. Furthermore, the house's walls were also damaged by a termite infestation. There is a possible mold infestation as well. [Contact Mark Berry for additional information.](#)

VETERAN BENEFITS

USMC VETERAN SEEKS SUPPLEMENTAL CLAIM FOR SERVICE CONNECTION OF PSYCHIATRIC CONDITION, BACK ISSUES

VLI CASE # 22-11734

A disabled Marine Corps Veteran seeks assistance to establish service connection for psychiatric and back conditions with the VA. The Veteran served 9 months and 22 days in the USMC from 1984 to 1988 and received an honorable discharge. Despite his honorable service, he has been denied service connection for his conditions and lacks VA healthcare. Recently, he has been diagnosed with prostate cancer. The Veteran is determined to secure the benefits he is entitled to for his service-related health issues.

[Contact Lydia Perre for more information.](#)

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