
Subject: Important changes at the Volunteer Clinic for Veterans (VCV)
Date: Friday, September 13, 2024 at 8:30:00 AM Eastern Daylight Time
From: Emory Law Dean
To: Law Communications
Attachments: image001.png



Dear Team Emory Law:

I write with news about the Volunteer Clinic for Veterans (VCV). This clinic was founded in 2013 by our emeritus faculty member Charlie Shanor and Lane Dennard, a partner at King & Spalding. It was, for them, a labor of love to which they brought vision, leadership, and support.

When Charlie retired, no faculty member took over as Director of VCV. We were so very fortunate that Rita Sheffey—who served eight years at Emory as Director of Public Service—assumed that leadership. Under Charlie, Lane, Rita, and others, the VCV provided students with the rich opportunity to work with veterans and gain experience in the legal world, including drafting wills and helping with discharge appeals and upgrades. And VCV got results, improving the lives of so many who served our country so selflessly.

In recent years, the VCV has been largely grant-funded. Unfortunately, that funding has not been renewed. After lengthy consideration, I have decided that when that funding is depleted, we will cease operations of the VCV.

But make no mistake: the law school will continue to provide pro bono services to our veterans and opportunities for our students. Indeed, this cloud has a true silver lining. It allows us to incorporate service to veterans directly into our core mission of public service. We will centralize our pro bono work and wrap the efforts of the VCV into the work of the Emory Public Interest Committee (EPIC). Through EPIC, Emory Law has promoted public interest careers among our students for four decades.

Placing our efforts for veterans under the EPIC umbrella will increase efficiency through centralization. Students will have a “one-stop shop” for pro bono work in a host of fields. Moreover, we are in discussion with an organization that is considering new pro bono opportunities aimed at serving the legal needs of veterans.

Beyond this, I note that Goizueta Business School has launched an Executive MBA degree for active-duty military. I have asked a faculty group to consider the feasibility of an LLM degree for active-duty military, which would further manifest our outreach to members of the military.

On behalf of the entire law school community, thank you for your support of VCV—for making it possible to improve the lives of so many veterans.

Change is difficult, and it is hard to see VCV cease operations. But our commitment to veterans will continue unabated. Again, thank you for your past support. And I hope you will consider supporting this new chapter in Emory Law's strong tradition of public interest and pro bono service to veterans and others.

Best,

Rich

Richard D. Freer

Dean and Charles Howard Candler Professor of Law

lawdean@emory.edu

Emory University School of Law

404.727.6838