

Jan Dils Veterans Disability Benefits Newsletter

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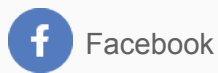
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All of us at Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, and the entire country will honor our Veterans on November 11, 2018. Veterans Day is near and dear to our hearts. To celebrate, honor and give back, on November 8, we are holding our annual spaghetti dinner benefiting Operation Transportation – a program that provides free bus passes for Veterans in the Mid-Ohio Valley. We hope you can make it!

Our Veterans risk their lives for our country; however, we cannot forget the hardship placed on their spouses. In our first article, we are pleased to provide information about a collaborative effort between the U.S. Department

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[Important Questions for Every Veteran Considering VA Disability Benefits](#)

[How a Prehearing Helps Your VA Disability Claim](#)

[What Does Evidence Mean In A VA Disability Claim?](#)

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of Veterans Affairs and the Department of Defense to help place spouses in careers. If you are interested, please read the article below, and we hope you find the resource links helpful.

In the second communication, we continue to follow the advances to the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) Modernization and Improvement Act of 2017 [AMA]. Due to the modernization effort, more than 7.8 million paper files were removed from 60 locations in fewer than 22 months, enabling rapid scanning into the VA's electronic claims processing system by multiple third-party vendors. This will lead to faster claims decisions for Veterans.

However, our Veterans don't always get the benefits they deserve. The claims and appeals processes are difficult to navigate. If you are one of the countless disabled Veterans caught in the maze, please do not hesitate to visit our [website](#) or call 877.526.3457 for a free consultation.

At Jan Dils, every day is Veterans Day. We salute you 365 days a year!

Sincerely,



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**Contact a Jan Dils
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VA Joins Military Spouse Employment Partnership



On, October 29, 2018, the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs' (VA) [Board of Veterans' Appeals \(BVA\)](#) announced it is advancing employment opportunities for military spouses by joining the Department of Defense (DOD) [Military Spouse Employment Partnership \(MSEP\)](#).

MSEP is a career program connecting military spouses with more than 390 affiliated employers who have committed to recruit, hire, promote and retain military spouses in portable careers.

“By developing skills, knowledge, and abilities that can be used in high-demand industry sectors, military spouses – especially those who face frequent relocations – can achieve employment continuity and increased opportunities for upward career mobility,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “BVA is committed to delivering better services to Veterans and their families, and we understand that military spouses offer unique perspectives that can help us deliver on our promise to care for Veterans.”

The Board's mission is to conduct hearings and decide appeals properly and in a timely manner.

The MSEP is part of the DOD's broader Spouse Education and Career Opportunities (SECO) program, which seeks to reduce the 23 percent unemployment rate experienced by military spouses and 25 percent wage gap experienced by military wives. SECO provides education and career guidance to military spouses worldwide and offers free, comprehensive resources and tools related to career exploration; education; training and licensing; employment readiness; and career connections. SECO also offers free career-coaching services six days a week.



To learn more about SECO, visit [Military OneSource](https://militaryonesource.mil) or call 800-342-9647 to speak to a SECO career coach.

For more information on the MSEP and the 350,327 active job postings for military spouses, visit <https://msepjobs.militaryonesource.mil>.

Source: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5132>



President Trump Approves Four Additional Judges to the VA's Board of Veterans' Appeals



The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) announced that President Donald J. Trump recently approved the appointment of four new Veterans Law Judges to the VA's [Board of Veterans' Appeals](#).

“Bringing on additional judges means the Board will be better staffed to conduct hearings and decide appeals properly in a timely manner,” said VA Secretary Robert Wilkie. “Combined with procedural changes under the Appeals Modernization and Improvement Act of 2017 [AMA] and the hiring of more than 200 additional Board attorneys, this translates into better and faster service for Veterans.”

Veterans Law Judges are presidential appointees and go through a thorough vetting process. After an initial screening, the chairman of the Board recommended a list of candidates to the Secretary of the VA. The selectees were forwarded to the White House for final approval and have officially been sworn in.

The following Veterans Law Judges assumed their roles October 14, 2018 and will begin holding hearings and

signing decisions for Veterans and other appellants:
Lauren Cryan, Evan Deichert, William Donnelly and
Cynthia Skow.



In fiscal year 2018, the Board issued a historic 85,288 decisions to Veterans – 61.6 percent more than 2017. Expanding the roster of Veterans Law Judges will allow the Board to continue issuing more decisions for Veterans, as the VA prepares for full implementation of the AMA. This law transforms a complex appeals process into one that is simplified, timely and transparent by providing Veterans with increased choice and control.

The Veterans Appeals Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 was signed into law on October 23, 2017. The new law takes effect in February 2019. It will create a new decision review process, which features three lanes:

Higher-Level Review– An entirely new review of the claim by an experienced adjudicator

Supplemental Claim – An opportunity to submit additional evidence

Appeal– Review by the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

Anyone who is not satisfied with the results of a claim for Veterans benefits is entitled to an appeal. If you have questions or concerns about your claim, please do not hesitate to contact [Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law](#). Updates to this process as a result of the Veterans Appeals

Improvement and Modernization Act of 2017 are forthcoming.

Sources: <https://www.va.gov/opa/pressrel/pressrelease.cfm?id=5127>
<https://www.bva.va.gov>

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Jan Dils, Attorneys at Law, handles Personal Injury Claims, Social Security and Veterans Disability for clients throughout West Virginia with offices located in Parkersburg-Beckley-Charleston-Huntington-Logan as well as one additional office located in Charlotte, North Carolina. But regardless of where you are located we are able to serve you or a family member Nationwide.

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