

NATIONAL ORGANIZATION OF
VETERANS' ADVOCATES, INC.



New Practitioner Session

OCTOBER 11, 2012

Fall Conference

OCTOBER 12 & 13, 2012

— *Sheraton Society Hill Hotel* —

PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA



ABOUT THE CONFERENCE

The 2012 NOVA conference, to be held at the Sheraton Society Hill in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, includes a **one-day New Practitioner Session** scheduled for Thursday, October 11, 2012. **The general seminar**, scheduled for Friday and Saturday, October 12 & 13, is filled with a wide array of interesting and informative topics and presenters. The NOVA conference is intended for both new practitioners to the area of veterans' law and more advanced practitioners. The seminar will increase your knowledge, confidence level, and expertise in representing veterans before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims and the Department of Veterans Affairs. In addition, your time may be credited to your jurisdiction's CLE requirements.



In order to maintain the professional atmosphere of the seminar, attendees are respectfully urged to wear appropriate **business casual attire**.





Michael Viterna
President



Matt Hill
Seminar Committee Chair

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR SEMINAR COMMITTEE

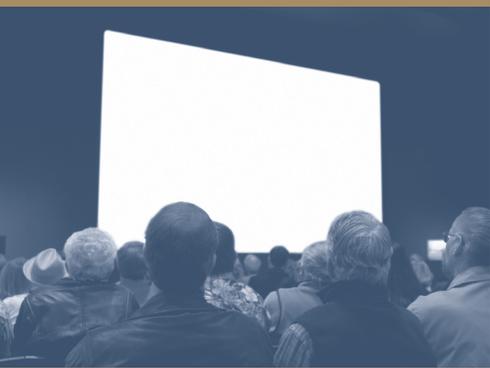
Welcome to Philadelphia and the 2012 NOVA Fall Conference!

Philadelphia, the home of Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell and Ben Franklin, will be the site of yet another terrific NOVA seminar in a long string of such conferences dating back to 1993. NOVA's seminars have long been regarded as the best offerings in the field of veteran advocacy- some would say the "Gold Standard" of such meetings- and this event is no exception.

Once you look over the program we think you'll agree that the agenda for this year's Fall Conference is robust and the presenters are solid experts in the field of veterans' law. This program is full of cutting-edge tools and content that you can work into your practice right away. Everyone who has been to a NOVA conference clearly understands how sophisticated and informative our training sessions are—especially in comparison to many of the offerings that are popping up by firms whose primary goal is different than NOVA's. NOVA's leadership has long felt that the reason our conferences represent the "gold standard" and are the best in the industry, is because they are taught and led by skilled practitioners who are currently active in representing veterans. Plus, we have access to senior officials at the VA and the CAVC that others simply do not have. As proof of the quality of our program, we already had registrants signing up the very day the first draft of the program was released! I urge you to make your plans to attend.

As in our previous conferences, you can expect numerous opportunities to network with a diversity of colleagues. We hope you use this opportunity to learn about new trends in the practice, share information, and build professional relationships nationwide. Sit back and relax with a cup of coffee and let the learning begin!

Your 2012 Seminar Planning Committee



FEATURED SPEAKER

CHIEF JUDGE KASOLD



NOVA is proud to announce that **Chief Judge Kasold** of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims will be our keynote speaker at this year's conference. He will be presenting during the luncheon on Friday, at 12:30 pm.

Chief Judge Kasold was appointed as a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims by the President of the United States on December 13, 2003. Kasold took the oath of office on December 31, 2003. He became Chief Judge on August 7, 2010.

Before his appointment to the bench, Kasold served as Chief Counsel for the Secretary of the Senate and Senate Sergeant at Arms. In that non partisan position, he advised Senate leaders on general legal matters and issues at the forefront of the of the nation's political landscape, including the electoral college, impeachment of the President, and historical management of an evenly divided Senate. Kasold also served as Chief Counsel for the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, where his work included marshaling the Senate's largest series of campaign finance hearings in a decade and conducting an investigation of allegations of state election fraud. Prior to working in the Senate, Kasold was a commercial and government contracts litigation attorney with the law firm Holland & Knight.

Judge Kasold is also a retired United States Army Lieutenant Colonel, with service in the Air Defense Artillery and Judge Advocate General's Corps. Kasold earned a Bachelor of Science degree from the United States Military Academy, Doctor, cum laude, from the University of Florida. He also holds an LL.M. from Georgetown University and an LL.M. equivalent from the Judge Advocate General's Graduate School. He is admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court, the Florida Supreme Court, and the District of Columbia Court of Appeals. He is a member of the Florida Bar, the District of Columbia Bar, the Federal Bar Association, and the Order of the Coif. Kasold is married to the former Patricia Ann, and they have a son, Adam.



ABOUT PHILADELPHIA

WELCOME TO PHILADELPHIA – the city where national landmarks and cultural hotspots come together to create a vibrant tapestry of art, history, nightlife, food and music. The fifth-largest city in the country, Philadelphia has all the amenities of big city life with quaint hometown charm. World-renowned attractions, tax-free shopping on clothing and shoes, a global dining scene, history at every corner, beautiful parks and streets bursting with a love of the arts make Philadelphia a premier destination.



Once you've arrived, you'll discover that getting around is easy and affordable. As one of the most walkable cities in the nation, everything you need for an unforgettable visit is just outside your doorstep. In the heart of the city is Independence National Historical Park, America's most historic square mile, and home to the Liberty Bell Center, Independence Hall, National Museum of American Jewish History, President's House, National Constitution Center, Independence Visitor Center and much more. Easy-to-navigate streets, helpful maps and downtown ambassadors are all here to make any visit to Philadelphia welcoming, warm and simple.



Philadelphia is a city of neighborhoods where the flavors, sights and sounds of the world are available. Come be a part of the Philadelphia story, it's one you simply can't miss.



Under VA regulations, practitioners must complete 3 hours of CLE in the areas of representation before VA, claims procedures, eligibility, right to appeal, disability compensation, DIC, and pension. Both the new practitioner seminar and the NOVA Conference will provide the hours necessary for VA accreditation purposes. In addition, to maintain your NOVA membership, you are required to attend at least one NOVA Spring or Fall Conference every two years.

NEW PRACTITIONER SESSION

THURS., OCTOBER 11 — GRAND BALLROOM

- 7:30 a.m. REGISTRATION WITH BREAKFAST**
("Questions and Eggs")

- 8:15 a.m. WELCOMING REMARKS**
Kenneth M. Carpenter, Esq.

- 8:30 a.m. OVERVIEW OF VA BENEFITS STRUCTURE**
(60 min) Presenter: Zachary M. Stolz, Esq.

- 9:30 a.m. A VA CLAIM FROM BEGINNING TO END**
(60 min) Presenter: Jill Mitchell, Esq.

- 10:30 a.m. BREAK**

- 10:45 a.m. ESTABLISHING ENTITLEMENT TO SERVICE
CONNECTED COMPENSATION**
(60 min) Presenter: Matthew D. Hill, Esq.

- 11:45 p.m. LUNCH** (On Your Own)

- 1:15 p.m. DOWNSTREAM ISSUES**
(90 min) Presenter: Barbara J. Cook, Esq.

- 2:45 p.m. DEVELOPING YOUR CASE TO WIN AT THE AGENCY**
(60 min) Presenter: Robert V. Chisholm, Esq.

- 3:45 p.m. BREAK**

- 4:00 p.m. HOW TO DETERMINE THE VALUE OF A VA CLAIM**
(75 min) Presenter: Kenneth M. Carpenter, Esq.

- 5:15 p.m. QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS SESSION**
Panel: All Presenters





FALL CONFERENCE

FRI., OCTOBER 12 — GRAND BALLROOM

- 7:30 a.m. REGISTRATION WITH BREAKFAST**
("Questions and Eggs")
- 8:00 a.m. WELCOMING REMARKS**
Michael R. Viterna, President, NOVA
- 8:15 a.m. HOW TO USE RECENT COURT DECISIONS**
(120 min)
Presenter: Kenneth M. Carpenter, Esq.
- 10:15 a.m. BREAK**
- 10:30 a.m. UPDATE FROM THE VA**
(120 min)
Presenter: Thomas J. Murphy, Director
Compensation Service, Dept. of Veterans Affairs
- 12:30 p.m. LUNCHEON KEYNOTE SPEAKER**
The Honorable Bruce E. Kasold,
Chief Judge U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims
- 1:45 p.m. MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA**
Presenter: Barbara J. Cook, Esq.
- 2:45 p.m. MILITARY SEXUAL TRAUMA AND VETERANS' EXPERIENCE OF THE VA COMPENSATION PROCESS**
(60 min)
Presenter: Margaret Bell, Ph. D., Office of Mental Health Service,
Department of Veteran Affairs
Stacey Pollack, Ph. D. VHA, Office of Mental Health Services,
Department of Veterans Affairs
- BREAKOUT SESSION: CAVC FOR BEGINNERS**
The Basics of Taking a Case to the Court
Presenter: Glenn R. Bergmann, Esq.
Meeting Room: Cook
- 3:45 p.m. BREAK**
- 4:00 p.m. SETTING UP A VA PRACTICE**
(60 min)
Presenter: Christopher Attig, Esq.
- 5:30 p.m. RECEPTION & SOCIAL HOUR**
Hamilton Room



FALL CONFERENCE

SAT., OCTOBER 13 — GRAND BALLROOM

7:30 a.m. BREAKFAST AND MEMBERSHIP MEETING*

8:15 a.m. DISCREDITING VA PSY TESTING
(120 min) Presenter: Dorothy Clay Sims, Esq.

10:15 a.m. BREAK

10:30 a.m. ETHICAL PITFALLS IN CAVC PRACTICE
(60 min) Presenter: Shelley D. Cutts, Esq.

BREAKOUT SESSION: TIPS & INSIGHT INTO THE PRACTICE OF VA LAW BY AN ACCREDITED AGENT

Presenter: Leo D. Dougherty, Accredited Agent
Meeting Room: Cook

11:30 p.m. LUNCH

1:00 p.m. AUTOPSY OF 3.312
(60 min) Presenter: Jessica L. Cleary, Esq.

BREAKOUT SESSION: REPRESENTING POOR/ INCARCERATED VETERANS

Presenter: Christie Bhagoloe, Esq.
Meeting Room: Cook

2:00 p.m. EVIDENCE DEVELOPMENT
(60 min) Presenter: Theodore C. Jarvi, Esq.

BREAKOUT SESSION: CORRECTION OF MILITARY RECORDS

Presenter: Richard G. Maxon, Esq.
Meeting Room: Cook

3:00 p.m. BREAK

3:15 p.m. VA MEDICAL EXAMS – TIPS FOR DOCTORS
(60 min) Presenter: John Ellis, M.D.

4:15 p.m. CLOSING REMARKS
Michael Viterna, President, NOVA

*In accordance with Article 5, Section 1 of the NOVA Bylaws



HOTEL & REGISTRATION INFORMATION/DEADLINES

Sheraton Society Hill Hotel is located in Philadelphia's historical district. You can stroll along cobblestone streets and visit America's most historic square mile, which includes such sites as Independence Hall, the Liberty Bell, the National Constitution Center, Independence Visitors Center, and Penn's Landing, just four blocks away. You'll also discover streets filled with world-class restaurants, entertainment, nightlife, and shopping.

Our room block rate is \$197/per night + tax, single or double occupancy, and is available 2 days prior and 2 days after the conference based on room availability.

Room reservations must be made by 5:00 ET, September 10, 2012 for these rates to be honored.

Reservations can also be made by calling Reservations @ **(800) 325-3535** and **be sure to let them know you are with the "National Organization of Veterans Advocates" or "NOVA"**.

Click here to make your hotel reservations:

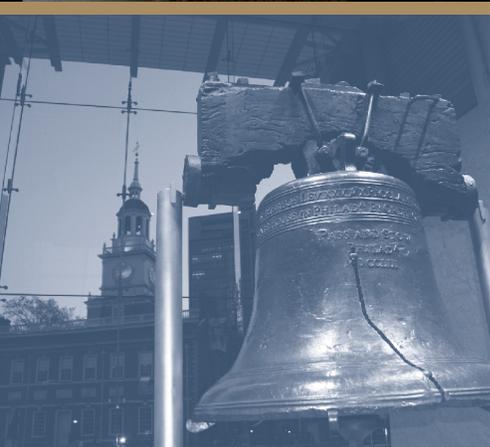
<https://www.starwoodmeeting.com/Book/2012NOVA>





WILLIAM G. SMITH SCHOLARSHIP

Scholarships have been created in memory of a founding member of NOVA, William G. Smith, Esq., who provided leadership and support to countless practitioners in veterans' law. Scholarships cover the cost of registration only and are available to individuals who are not financially able to attend, and who would not otherwise be able to attend the seminar due to financial hardship. These scholarships are designated for attorneys, non-attorney practitioners, law students, and also accredited veteran's service representatives. To be considered for a scholarship, submit a letter of interest which includes a description of your involvement in the area of veterans' benefits law along with a current resume.



The granting of scholarships as well as the number of recipients shall be a discretionary decision of the Board of Directors.

The deadline to submit a request for scholarship consideration is September 3, 2012.

Questions and requests for scholarships may be submitted to:

Regina Alegre
Exec. Administrator
480 838-9887
RAlegre-NOVA@cox.net



NOVA CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

Send completed registration form and payment to:

U. S. Mail
NOVA
REGINA ALEGRE
1939 E. REDMON DRIVE
TEMPE, AZ 85283

Fax: (480) 730-9404
Email: RAlegre-NOVA@cox.net

OFFICE USE ONLY

Received _____

Check # _____

QUESTIONS MAY BE DIRECTED TO: REGINA ALEGRE (480) 838-9887 OR RAlegre-NOVA@cox.net

REQUIRED INFORMATION

NAME: _____ ORGANIZATION: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

PHONE: _____ E-MAIL: _____

If you are not a NOVA member, how did you hear about the conference? ADVERTISEMENT WEBSITE OTHER

For the seated luncheon on friday, please select your entrée: FISH BEEF VEGETARIAN

SEMINAR MATERIALS

Seminar materials will be provided prior to the conference via internet download. An email will be sent to the address shown above with instructions to download the materials. Electrical charging stations will be set-up at the conference for your laptop computer; however, you may want to bring extra batteries.

Will you be bringing your laptop to the conference? YES NO

REGISTRATION FEES (See Attached Fee Schedule)

SESSION ATTENDING:

NEW PRACTITIONER SESSION ONLY

NOVA CONFERENCE ONLY

Break Out Session: CAVC For Beginners

Break Out Session: Tips & Insight From An Accredited Agent

Break Out Session: Representing Poor/Incarcerated Veterans

Break Out Session: Correction Of Military Records

COMBO - NEW PRACTITIONER SESSION AND NOVA CONFERENCE

Break Out Session: Court For Beginners

Break Out Session: Tips & Insight From An Accredited Agent

Break Out Session: Representing Poor/Incarcerated Veterans

Break Out Session: Correction Of Military Records

Multi-registration fee discount: Any organization that represents veterans and who register 2 or more individuals at the same time, are entitled to a 20% of the total registration fee. The discount will APPLY ONLY to the early bird registration fee.

Credit card payments: You may pay by credit card (Visa, MC, or Discover) by calling Regina Alegre, (480) 838-9887 or completing the credit card payment form. A \$10 processing fee will be added to the total.

REGISTRATION FEE \$ _____

CREDIT CARD PROCESSING FEE \$ _____

LESS 20% MULTI-REGISTRATION DISCOUNT \$ _____ *If Applicable*

TOTAL PAYMENT ENCLOSED \$ _____ **Completed registration form(s) must be included with payment.**

CLE CREDITS AND VA ACCREDITATION

In order to apply for CLE credits for your attendance at this seminar, please provide the following:

STATE AND BAR#: _____ STATE AND BAR#: _____

REGISTRATION FEE SCHEDULE

CANCELLATION POLICY

BEFORE OCTOBER 1, 2012.....75% of fee paid will be returned
ON OR AFTER OCTOBER 1, 2012.....NO REFUND (SEMINAR MATERIALS WILL BE PROVIDED)

EARLY BIRD RATE

Postmarked On or Before
9/1/12

Postmarked On or Before
10/1/12

AFTER 10/1/12

Registrations Must Be Made by
Phone and Paid by Credit Card

NEW PRACTITIONER SESSION – ONLY

NOVA MEMBER	\$300	\$400	\$600
NON-NOVA MEMBER	\$400	\$500	\$700
STUDENT	\$50	\$75	\$100

FALL CONFERENCE – ONLY

NOVA MEMBER	\$400	\$550	\$750
NON-NOVA MEMBER	\$550	\$650	\$850
STUDENT	\$75	\$100	\$125

NEW PRACTITIONER SESSION AND FALL CONFERENCE

NOVA MEMBER	\$600	\$800	\$1200
NON-NOVA MEMBER	\$850	\$1000	\$1400
STUDENT	\$125	\$150	\$175

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT FORM

DATE: _____ YOUR NAME: _____

CARD #: _____ / _____ / _____ / _____ 3 DIGIT SECURITY CODE: _____ EXP. DATE: _____
(VISA, MC, DISCOVER)

NAME (as it appears on the card): _____

CREDIT CARD BILLING ADDRESS: _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP: _____

ITEM PURCHASED: _____

PHONE: _____ EMAIL (person to receive receipt): _____

AMOUNT: \$ _____ + \$10 processing fee = \$ _____