

Biographical Information For Melanie Brunson

Melanie Brunson is the Director of Government Relations for the Blinded Veterans Association (BVA). She joined the staff of BVA in October 2015, and is based at the organization's national headquarters in Alexandria, Virginia.

Prior to joining the staff of BVA, Mrs. Brunson served as Executive Director for the American Council of the Blind (ACB). She held that position beginning in 2003, following five years of service as ACB's Director of Advocacy and Governmental Affairs.

Before moving to the Washington D.C. area, Mrs. Brunson lived and worked in California. She practiced law in that state for fourteen years. Much of that time was spent in a private practice which emphasized estate planning for people with disabilities and their families. From April of 1996 to December of 1997, she also worked as a Client Assistance Program Advocate, assisting individuals with disabilities with legal issues related to their matriculation of the state's vocational rehabilitation system. From January to July of 1998, she was employed as an attorney for the Western Law Center for Disability Rights in Los Angeles.

Mrs. Brunson received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Whittier College, and her Juris Doctorate from Whittier College School of Law. She was admitted to the California Bar in 1984.

In her spare time, Mrs. Brunson enjoys being a part of several community organizations. She is currently a member of the Board of Directors of the Guide Dogs for the Blind Alumni Association. In 2008, Brunson was appointed by the Governor of Virginia to the State Rehabilitation Council, a federally mandated body that advises the Virginia Department for the Blind and Vision Impaired on how to improve the vocational rehabilitation services it provides. She was a member of the Council for six years, served as Council Chair in 2012 and served on the Executive Committee during her last two years on the Council.