

Richard V. Spataro

Curriculum Vitae

National Veterans Legal Services Program
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Experience

National Veterans Legal Services Program, Washington, DC Aug. 2005 – present
Director of Training and Publications (August 2015 – present)
Managing Attorney, *Nehmer* Lawsuit Division (November 2010 – August 2015)
Staff Attorney (August 2005 – November 2010)

- Represented over 325 appellants before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.
- Managed a team of 4-5 attorneys and a paralegal that assisted thousands of veterans and their survivors obtain retroactive VA benefits for herbicide-related disabilities under the court orders in the class action *Nehmer v. U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs*.
 - Team identified VA errors resulting in the award of over \$37 million of additional VA disability compensation to class members.
 - Oversaw the review of over 1,600 VA claims files of class members to ensure VA compliance with the *Nehmer* Court Orders.
 - Personally prepared 5 interim fee petitions under the Equal Access to Justice Act resulting in the award of over \$5 million in attorneys' fees and expenses.
- Author of NVLSP's Veterans Benefits Manual, a legal treatise on veterans benefits law. Responsible for revising 3 chapters annually since 2006 and drafted a new chapter on reviewing VA claims files.
- Actively mentored over 120 attorneys representing veterans before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims through The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program.
- Actively mentored dozens of volunteer attorneys representing veterans before VA Regional Offices and the Board of Veterans' Appeals through NVLSP's Lawyers Serving Warriors program, after screening and preparing a legal memorandum for each case.
- Prepared over 25 training outlines and Power Point presentations on various topics in veterans law for veterans service organizations including The American Legion and Military Order of the Purple Heart, and conducted the trainings.
- Represented several veterans before the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit, the Board of Veterans' Appeals, and VA Regional Offices.
- Served as Vice Chair of the Veterans Affairs Committee of the Section of Administrative Law and Regulatory Practice of the American Bar Association from 2010 to 2013.

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program, Washington, DC Aug. 2015 – present
Director, Training and Outreach

- Coordinated, prepared, and conducted three day-long training sessions on veterans benefits law for over 140 volunteer attorneys.
- Conducted outreach with national and international law firms to organize training sessions for attorneys on veterans benefits law and representing veterans before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.
- Recruited numerous attorneys to attend training sessions and represent veterans *pro bono* before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

National Veterans Legal Services Program, Washington, DC May 2004 – May 2005
Law Clerk

- Assisted veterans afflicted with Agent Orange-related diseases, or their survivors, with claims arising from a class action lawsuit against the Department of Veterans Affairs.
- Researched and responded to questions about veterans benefits via telephone, mail, and email.
- Reviewed citations and proofread 9 chapters of the 2004 Veterans Benefits Manual.
- Created 2 training outlines, 8 case summaries, and other materials for a *pro bono* training program.
- Performed legal research for U.S. District Court and U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims briefs.

Amram & Hahn, P.C., Vienna, VA

June 2003 – Aug. 2003

Law Clerk

- Prepared and filed over 20 memoranda, motions, responses and oppositions for 2 lawsuits, including a class action, in the D.C. Superior Court and D.C. Court of Appeals.
- Managed 3 trusts and all firm bank accounts, together valued at over \$1 million.
- Drafted advance medical directives, powers of attorney, an insurance trust, and a will.
- Assisted with the preparation of Petitions for Probate for and administration of 2 estates.
- Composed 5 real property tax assessment appeals for D.C. homeowners.

USS Mount Whitney

Oct. 2000 – May 2002

Navigator (Department Head)

Honors: Navy Achievement Medal, National Defense Service Medal, Navy Battle Efficiency Award

- Directed the daily operations of over 600 sailors as the Commanding Officer's representative.
- Prepared and presented over 40 navigation briefs to groups of over 60 people.
- Researched/planned routes for and safely navigated the ship during over 40 channel transits.

USS Vella Gulf

Nov. 1998 – Sept. 2000

Auxiliaries Officer (Division Officer)

Honors: Navy Achievement Medal, Navy Battle Efficiency Award, Navy Unit Commendation, Kosovo Campaign Medal, Sea Service Deployment Ribbon, NATO Medal

- Managed 18 sailors; responsible for their performance and well-being.
- Responsible for the maintenance and repair of all auxiliary engineering equipment.
- Identified/monitored ships in the Adriatic Sea in support of Kosovo Campaign combat operations.

Education

American University, Washington College of Law, Washington, DC

Juris Doctor, *Cum Laude*, May 2005

Honors: Highest Grade in Legal Rhetoric, Writing & Research, Spring 2003

Activities: Criminal Justice Clinic, 2004-05: Prosecuted domestic violence cases in the District Court of Maryland, Montgomery County

Marshall-Brennan Fellow, 2003-04: Taught constitutional law in a D.C. public high school

William H. Karchmer "We the Students" Moot Court Competition, 2003, 2004: Judge

Duke University, Trinity College of Arts and Sciences, Durham, NC

Bachelor of Arts, History Major, Political Science Minor, May 1998

Honors: Dean's List: Fall 1996 - Spring 1997, Spring 1998

Activities: Naval ROTC, 1994-98: Platoon Commander, Drill Team, 16 community service projects

Students Against Sweatshops, 1997-98: Assisted in researching and drafting the Duke

University Code of Conduct; educated the community about the group's mission

Duke University Union, Major Attractions Committee, 1995-98

Athletics: Club Lacrosse, Intramural Soccer, Intramural Roller Hockey

Admissions / Accreditations

District of Columbia Bar

Virginia State Bar

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit

U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims

U.S. District Court for the Northern District of California (*Pro Hac Vice*)

District of Columbia Court of Appeals

Supreme Court of Virginia

U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, Accredited Attorney

The American Legion, Accredited Representative

Military Order of the Purple Heart, Accredited Representative

Vietnam Veterans of America, Accredited Representative

Texas Veterans Commission, Accredited Representative

National Veterans Legal Services Program, Accredited Representative