

### Course Planner

#### Prof. Thomas J. Reed, Esq.

Professor of Law & Director, Veterans Law Clinic  
Widener University School of Law, Wilmington, DE

Thomas Reed is Professor of Law at Widener University School of Law's Delaware campus, where he is the Director of the Veterans Law Clinic that specializes in VA appeals from the Regional Offices to the Board of Veterans Appeals and beyond.

### Faculty

#### Robert Costantini

VA Regional Office and Insurance Center  
Philadelphia

#### Susan Paczak, Esq.

Abes Baumann, P.C.  
Pittsburgh

#### Susan W. Sidel, Esq.

Veterans Law Clinic  
Widener University School of Law  
Media

**REGISTER TODAY! 800.247.4724 PBI.ORG**

### *professional education credits*

4

This program has been approved by the Pennsylvania Continuing Legal Education Board for 4 hours of CLE credit in substantive law.

#### Please Note:

**It is the view of the DVA that you must complete the initial accreditation process before taking the CLE requirement. Should you have questions about the DVA CLE requirement, you can call 202-461-4995 for clarification.**

4  
CLE CREDITS  
substantive

## Practice Before the Department of Veterans Affairs



For information and quick registration, use your smartphone to scan this QR code with one of these free readers:

- iPhone — i-Nigma
- BlackBerry® — get.beetagg.com
- Windows Mobile/ Palm — i-nigma.mobi
- Android™ — Barcode scanner



PENNSYLVANIA BAR INSTITUTE  
*Continuing Education Arm of the Pennsylvania Bar Association*

NONPROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE  
PAID  
Pennsylvania Bar  
Institute

BRINGING EXCELLENCE TO CLE

5080 Ritter Road, Mechanicsburg, PA 17055-6903

Allegheny County  
Bar Association

PHILADELPHIA  
BAR ASSOCIATION

\* MECHANICSBURG, SIMULCAST & LIVE WEBCAST • FRIDAY, AUGUST 26, 2011 \*

4  
CLE CREDITS  
substantive

# Practice Before the Department of Veterans Affairs



**Mechanicsburg**  
Friday, August 26, 2011

**Live Webcast**  
Friday, August 26, 2011

**Simulcast**  
Friday, August 26, 2011

Allentown  
Beaver  
Mansfield  
Meadville

Mill Hall  
New Castle  
Philadelphia

Pittsburgh  
Warren  
Wilkes-Barre  
York

PENNSYLVANIA BAR INSTITUTE  
*Continuing Education Arm of the Pennsylvania Bar Association*

BRINGING EXCELLENCE TO CLE

# Practice Before the Department of Veterans Affairs

Effective July 1, 2008, any attorney wishing to assist claimants in the preparation, presentation and prosecution of claims for VA benefits must be accredited by the Department of Veterans Affairs (DVA) for that purpose.

The initial accreditation process consists of application (VA Form 21a) to the General Counsel of the VA, self-certification of admission information concerning practice before any other court, bar, or State or Federal Agency, and a determination of character and fitness.

To download the Appointment of Individual as Claimant's Representative Form go to: [www.va.gov/va/forms](http://www.va.gov/va/forms). The General Counsel will presume an attorney's character and fitness to practice before the DVA based on State Bar membership in good standing unless the General Counsel receives credible information to the contrary.

As a further condition of initial accreditation, attorneys are required to complete at least 3 hours of qualifying continuing legal education (CLE) during the first 12 month period following the date of initial accreditation by DVA. To qualify, a CLE course must be approved by any State Bar Association, and at a minimum must cover the following topics: representation before the DVA, claims procedures, basic eligibility for VA benefits, right to appeal, disability compensation, dependency and indemnity compensation and pension. To maintain accreditation, attorneys must complete an additional 3 hours of qualifying CLE on veterans benefits law and procedure not later than 3 years from the date of initial accreditation and every 2 years thereafter.

The Pennsylvania Bar Institute is pleased to present this initial training requirement. Join our expert faculty as they present a program that will meet and surpass the requirements set down by DVA.

## Agenda

- 8:30 - 9:15 **The VA Claim Process — An Overview**
- 9:15 - 9:45 **Basic Principles of Veterans Benefits**
- 9:45 - 10:45 **Appeals to the Board of Veterans Appeals**
- 10:45 - 11:00 *Break*
- 11:00 - 12:00 **Appeals to the CAVC**
- 12:00 - 12:45 **Attorney Fees**

## Date & Locations

8:30 am to 12:45 pm; check-in begins at 8:00 am

**Mechanicsburg • Fri., Aug. 26, 2011**  
PBI Conference Center  
5080 Ritter Rd., Rossmoyne Exit, Rt. 15

**Live Webcast • Fri., Aug. 26, 2011**  
Go to [webcasts.pbi.org](http://webcasts.pbi.org) to register.  
Subject to 4-credit distance ed limit.

## Simulcast • Fri., Aug. 26, 2011

**Allentown**  
Bar Assn. of Lehigh Co.  
1114 Walnut St.

**Mill Hall**  
Clinton Co.  
Cooperative Ext.  
Resource/Education Ctr.  
47 Cooperation Lane

**Pittsburgh**  
PBI Professional  
Development Conf. Ctr.  
Heinz S7 Center  
339 Sixth Ave., 7<sup>th</sup> Fl.

**Beaver**  
Beaver Co. Bar Assn.  
788 Turnpike St.

**New Castle**  
Penn State Coop. Ext.  
of Lawrence Co.  
Lawrence Co. Cthse.  
430 Court St., 3<sup>rd</sup> Fl.

**Warren**  
Warren Library Assn.  
205 Market St., Slater B

**Mansfield**  
Mansfield University  
Memorial Hall  
20 Straughn Drive

**Philadelphia**  
The CLE Conference Ctr.  
Wanamaker Building  
10th Floor, Ste. 1010

**Wilkes-Barre**  
Kings College  
Sheehy-Farmer Campus  
Center  
Lane's Lane

**Meadville**  
Economic Progress  
Alliance Conference Ctr.  
William J. Douglass Jr.  
Corporate Conf. Ctr.  
764 Bessemer St.

**York**  
York College of PA  
Business Admin. Bldg.

**Registration Policy:** We encourage early registration. Save \$25 on registrations received more than 3 business days before the presentation date. Early registration helps us ensure there will be sufficient course materials, seating and refreshment. Walk-in registrations will be accepted on a space-available basis. Pre-registered customers receive priority on the distribution of course materials. Those intending to register at the door should check [www.pbi.org](http://www.pbi.org) or call (800) 247-4724 to ensure that the course has not sold out and that there have been no schedule changes.

**Cancellation Policy:** In order to receive a refund for cancellation (less a \$25 administrative fee), you must notify PBI by mail or FAX no later than 2 business days prior to the course presentation date for the appropriate site. Otherwise, you will receive the course materials in full consideration of tuition paid.

**Weather Related Cancellations:** Check [www.pbi.org](http://www.pbi.org) or call (800)-932-4637 ext. 2205.

**Registration Transfers:** Requests for transfers will be honored if they are received prior to the date of the course.

**Services for Persons with Disabilities:** If special arrangements are required, please contact Customer Service at (800) 932-4637 at least ten days prior to the presentation date.

**Registration Confirmation:** Be sure to include your email address on the registration form to receive a confirmation. Expedite your check-in by bringing this confirmation to the seminar, but is not required for admission.

**Speaker Substitutions:** PBI reserves the right to substitute speakers at all programs.

**PBI Scholarships:** PBI offers substantially reduced tuition for most PBI seminars to allow attorneys experiencing financial hardship to fulfill their mandatory education requirement. For details and an application, contact Scholarship Administrator at [scholarships@pbi.org](mailto:scholarships@pbi.org) or (800) 932-4637 Ext. 2284 at least 30 days before the program. (Please note scholarships are not available for Online CLE.)

[www.pbi.org](http://www.pbi.org)

6975-1do/arm-6/22/11

# Practice Before the Department of Veterans Affairs

## DATES & LOCATIONS

3131

- Mechanicsburg  
Friday, August 26, 2011
- Simulcast \_\_\_\_\_  
Friday, August 26, 2011

## TUITION (INCLUDES COURSE BOOK)

EARLY*	STANDARD	
<input type="checkbox"/> \$179	<input type="checkbox"/> \$204	Members — Pa., or any co. bar assn.
<input type="checkbox"/> \$159	<input type="checkbox"/> \$184	Members admitted after 1/1/07
<input type="checkbox"/> \$199	<input type="checkbox"/> \$224	Nonmembers
<input type="checkbox"/> \$99	<input type="checkbox"/> \$124	Paralegals attending with an attorney
<input type="checkbox"/> \$129	<input type="checkbox"/> \$154	Paralegals attending alone
<input type="checkbox"/> \$90	<input type="checkbox"/> \$115	Judges and judicial law clerks
<input type="checkbox"/> \$80	<input type="checkbox"/> \$105	Judges and judicial law clerks admitted after 1/1/07

or  Go to [webcasts.pbi.org](http://webcasts.pbi.org) for webcast tuition and to register. Sorry, we cannot accept checks for Online CLE. Online tuition differs from live course tuition.  
\*Registrations received 3 or more business days before the presentation qualify for the Early Registration Discount.

## Book & Audio CD

- Course Book (2011-6975) — \$99  
plus \$6.00 S&H and \$6.30 tax (\$111.30)
- Audio CD (ACD-6975) — \$39  
plus \$6.00 S&H and \$2.70 tax (\$47.70)
- Audio CD & Book Set (ACDS-6975) — \$129  
plus \$6.00 S&H and \$8.10 tax (\$143.10)

If you are ordering course materials separately, please allow two weeks after the first program for the shipment of books and 4 to 6 weeks for shipment of the CDs and book/CD sets.

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Atty. # \_\_\_\_\_

Firm \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Email (required for confirmation) \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ FAX \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

I have enclosed my discount coupon in the amount of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for my  1st  2nd  3rd  4th  5th seminar.

A check made payable to PBI for \$ \_\_\_\_\_ is enclosed.

Charge my:

Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp. Date \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_



PBI, 5080 Ritter Rd.  
Mechanicsburg, Pa.  
17055-6903



(717) 796-2348



(717) 796-0804  
(800) 247-4724  
(800) 932-4637