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.
Abos Burmann, PC
Pittsburgh

Susan W. Saidel, Esq.
Veterans Law Clinic
Widener University School of Law

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.

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Practice Before the Department of Veterans Affairs

Mechanicsburg
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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. 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 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.

Practice Before the Department of Veterans Affairs

Datas & Locations

Mechanicsburg • Fri., Aug. 26, 2011
Live Webcast • Fri., Aug. 26, 2011
PBI Conference Center
5080 Ritter Rd., Rosemont Exits, Rt. 15
Go to 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.

Bever
Beaver Co. Bar Assn.
788 Tunkhannock St.

Mansfield
Mansfield University
Memorial Hall
20 Straughs Drive

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

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

New Castle
Penn State Campus Est.
of Lawrence Co.
Lawrence Co. Ctr.
430 Court St., 3rd Fl.

Philadelphia
The CLE Conference Ctr.
Wanamaker Building
1060, Ste. 1010

Pittsburgh
PBI Professional
Development Conf. Ctr.
Heinz 57 Center
319 South Ave., 7th Fl.

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

Wilkes-Barre
King College
Sheedy-Farmer Campus
Center
James L. Warner

York
York College of PA
Business Admin. Bldg.