

## Chairman's Forum

I am extremely pleased to introduce the second issue of the *Veterans Law Review*. The Department's outreach to all Veterans and their families includes not only medical, disability assistance, and memorial benefits, but helpful guidance through such publications as the *Veterans Law Review*. This second volume highlights legal issues and policy concerns that are currently faced by the Veterans Health Administration, the Veterans Benefits Administration, the Board of Veterans' Appeals and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (Court) in addressing claims that have been submitted by our Veterans who have served this nation in uniform. This second volume includes topics that range from *The Rule of Prejudicial Error* to the *Restoration and Modernization of Education Benefits under the Post 9/11 Veterans Assistance Act of 2008*. Other topics addressed in this second issue include a review of the *Expedited Claims Adjudication Initiative*, *A Study of the Latest Efforts to Automate the Veterans' Claims Process*, and *An Examination of How the Proposed Combat PTSD Act Would Alter the Presumption of a Traumatic Stressor's Occurrence for Veterans*. In addition, both procedural and substantive issues related to the adjudication of claims are reflected in articles entitled *The Evolution of the Pending Claim Doctrine* and *The Importance of Preserving the Pro-Claimant Policy Underlying the Veterans Benefit Scheme*.

During the first year of the Administration of President Obama, the Department of Veterans Affairs' service to our Veterans has never been more robust. Nearly 5.8 million veterans have been treated, more than \$40 billion in benefits have been dispensed, more than 900 thousand claims have been adjudicated, and more than 45 thousand appeals have been reviewed and adjudicated. In each case, the quality of service and the quality of care are a matter of pre-eminent concern to my office and to each of our Administrations and Staff Offices.

As we move into the second year of the new Administration, our transformation is well underway. The Department has recommitted itself to providing the very best

**service to each of our Veterans, wherever residing and/or hospitalized. We believe this volume of the *Review* reflects that transformation, and its carefully written articles, notes, and reviews provide an exemplar of the commitment shared by every VA attorney, Veterans Law Judge and employee on behalf of this nation's Veterans.**

**James P. Terry**