

Dean James W. Houck
Penn State Law
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802

529 West Nittany Avenue
State College, PA 16801
February, 26, 2016

Dear Dean Houck,

I am writing to you to describe my wife's and my experience at the Veterans and Service-members Legal Clinic in the Law School. As a Vietnam veteran I had requested compensation from the VA based on my exposure to Agent Orange and subsequent AML or acute myeloid leukemia. Mr. Brian Querry, Director of Veterans Affairs for Centre County referred us to the Clinic. My wife, Jill, and I, have interacted primarily with Professor Michele Vollmer, the current Director of the Clinic, Professor Michael Foreman, the Director of Clinics and Experiential Learning, and several law students: Mr. Justin Bish, Ms. Alyssa Gerace, Mr. Scott Garner and Ms. Sara Ann Bennett. We are now awaiting an appeals decision from the VA.

It seems timely to write to you now. Regardless of the decision, we feel like we have received the most professional and thorough legal assistance possible. The efforts of both Michele and Michael and their students have extended well beyond anything we imagined. The legal and medical background and the somewhat peculiar machinations of the VA system were researched thoroughly and understood. We attended multiple meetings in which our voices were heard, our opinions sought, and our input respected and valued. Supporting letters from my attending oncologists and other experts in relating Agent Orange and AML were pursued persistently but with finesse, sensitivity, and success. The appeal was carefully and thoughtfully constructed and we were shown drafts and asked for input at every juncture. Since the appeal was sent to the VA, we have been updated frequently and feel very supported and well informed. If the appeal is not successful, and I believe it will be, it will not be because of a lack of professionalism and commitment in our legal support.

I thought you might want to hear about excellence that is occurring in the Law School. You and I and Penn State are very fortunate to have such competence and professionalism in our midst.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'R. B. Slaney', followed by a long horizontal flourish.

Robert B. Slaney, Ph.D.
Professor Emeritus, PSU

