

VETERAN ADVOCACY PROJECT

ANNUAL REPORT
2024



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CARRYING OUT THE MISSION IN FY2024

VAP has been advocating for veterans and their families for fourteen years, and this summer our team grew to nine, the largest we have been since VAP started as one volunteer.

Our attorneys continue to remove barriers to housing, income, and health care, ensuring that even our most vulnerable clients can focus on recovery and success.

Through partnerships, our advocates connect veterans to a network of resources including housing arrears, employment programs, primary care, and veteran-specific mental health services.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Programs	3
Clients	4
Cases	5
Partners	6
Pro bono	7
Financials	8
Supporters	9
Board & Staff	10

PRACTICE AREAS

GENERAL CIVIL LEGAL SERVICES

Our civil legal practice ensures housing and income stability through homelessness prevention with social services agencies and medical-legal partnerships with Vet Centers and community health clinics around New York.

VA: ACCESS & CLAIMS

VAP's veterans law practice focuses on gaining access to the vast federal resources available through the Department of Veterans Affairs; we represent veterans in VA character of discharge determinations and disability claims related to mental health conditions and trauma.

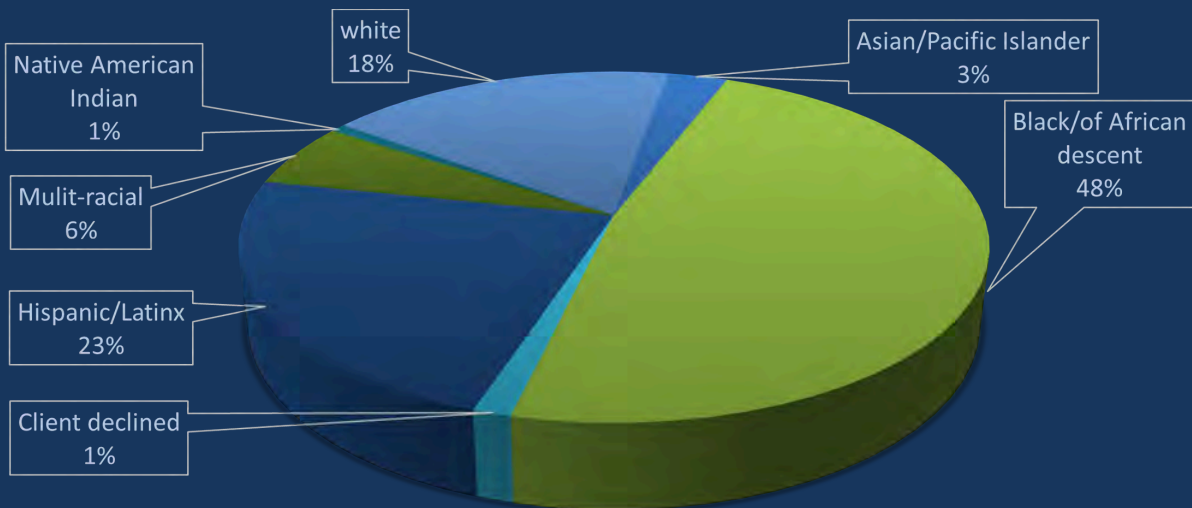
DOD: DISCHARGE UPGRADES

Our DOD practice & our Discharge Upgrade Clinic ("DUC") fight to restore honor to veterans who were unjustly discharged; the team files applications for upgrades & corrections while also training and supervising a network of pro bono attorneys who dedicate countless valuable hours to these life-changing cases.

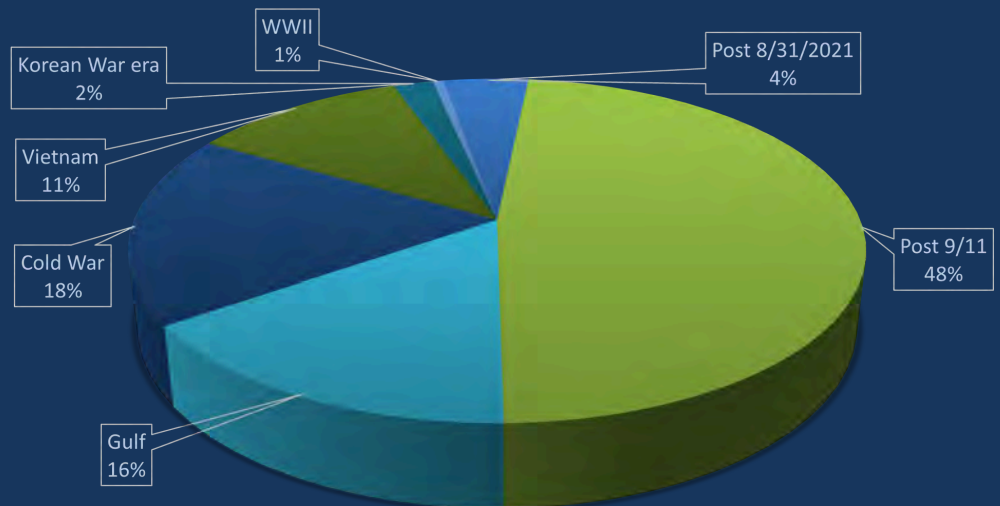
CLIENTS

In FY 2024, VAP assisted over 1450 unique veterans, with the team working on more than 1500 cases for former servicemembers and their families.

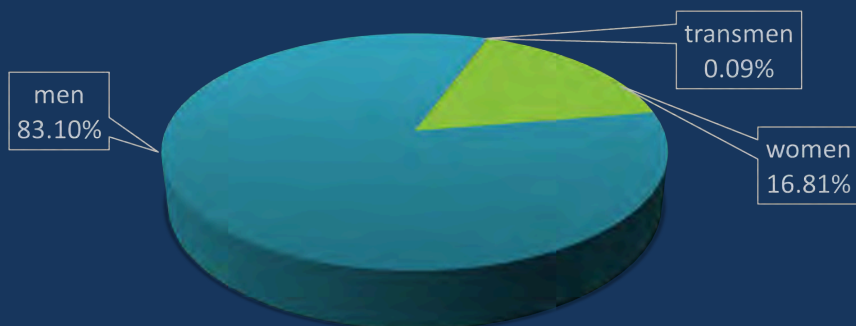
Race and Ethnicity



Service Era

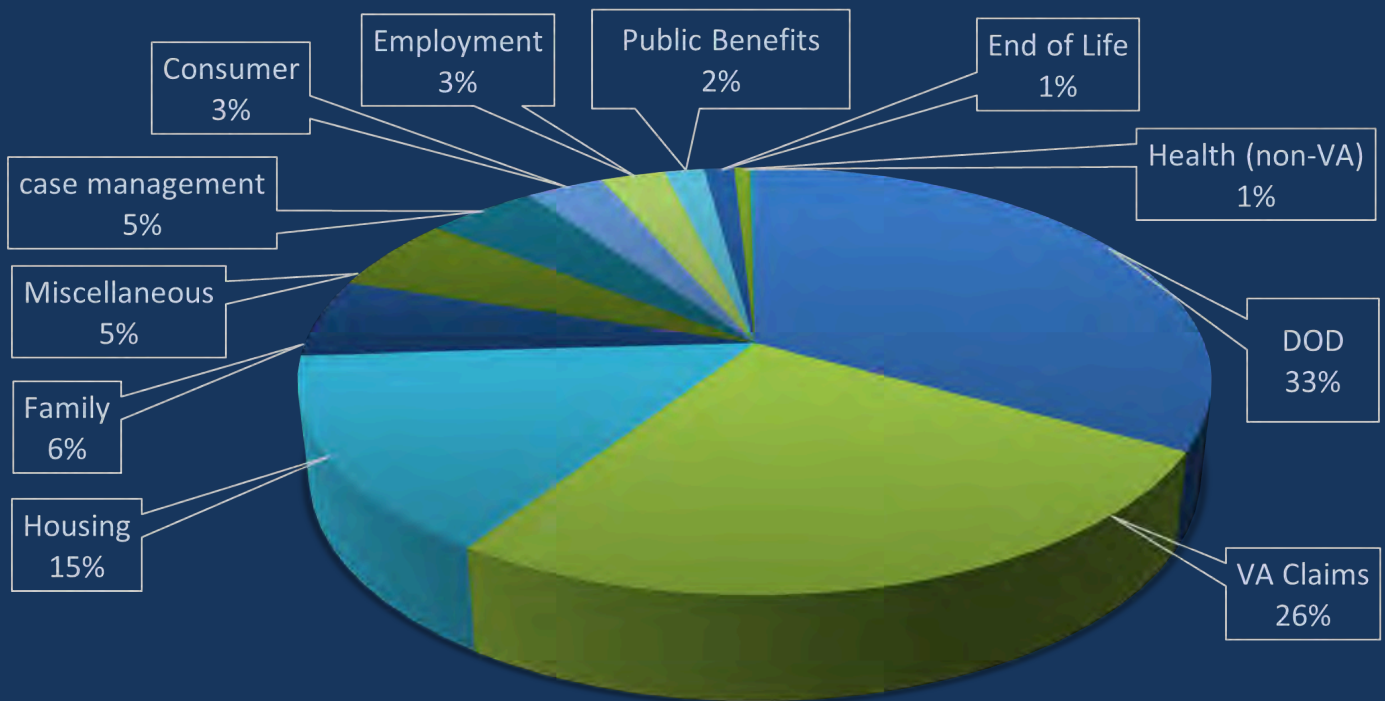


Gender Identity



CASES

VAP's legal services provide access to health care and benefits, reduce justice-involvement, keep veterans and their families in their homes, and empower veterans by removing barriers to success. This year three practice teams covered a broad range of challenges:



Lawyers at **24** firms & corporations committed to **60** pro bono discharge upgrade cases in FY2024.

3
ADVOCATES
7
ATTORNEYS
1508
MATTERS

PARTNERS



SERVICES FOR THE UNDERSERVED

VAP has partnered with SUS for nearly a decade. Our attorneys work with SUS case managers in the VA's Supportive Services for Veterans Families ("SSVF") program preventing evictions & promoting housing stability.



After a long pandemic hiatus, VAP is back in the VA's Bronx Vet Center. With onsite intake, VAP works with Vet Center counselors to provide assistance to veterans of all eras.



Off the Streets. On with Life.

Jericho was VAP's first partner and, over a dozen years later, our collaboration is going strong. VAP provides legal services for veterans enrolled in Jericho's SSVF program.



Since 2015 VAP has been working with the social work team across all of CHN's federally qualified health centers around New York City. Our medical-legal partnership improves health outcomes and provides a culturally competent alternative to the VA.

PRO BONO

Akin

Arnold & Porter

 **Bressler**
AMERY & ROSS

CLEARY GOTTLIB

 **conEdison**

**Debevoise
& Plimpton**

 **GreenbergTraurig**

KASOWITZ
BENSON TORRES

Katten

**LATHAM &
WATKINS** LLP

 **Lowenstein
Sandler**

 **O'Melveny**

 **orrick**

 **Patterson
Belknap**

 **PayPal**

 **SCHULTE ROTH + ZABEL**

SEWARD & KISSEL LLP

 **SIDLEY**

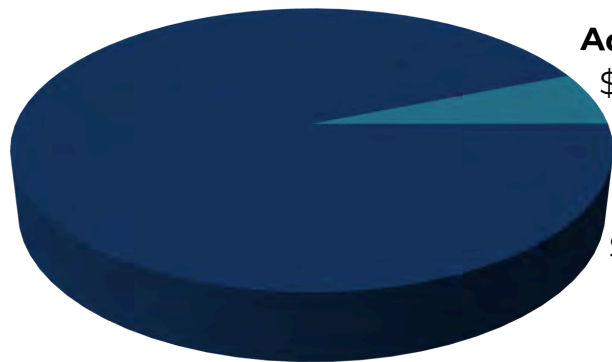
 **SOCIETE
GENERALE**

SULLIVAN & CROMWELL LLP

FINANCIALS

Recently, Congress authorized the Department of Veterans Affairs to fund legal services directly and VAP was a recipient of the inaugural grant. With support from New York City Council, Sozosei Foundation, and others, FY2024 brought important growth to our programs.

Expenses



Administration

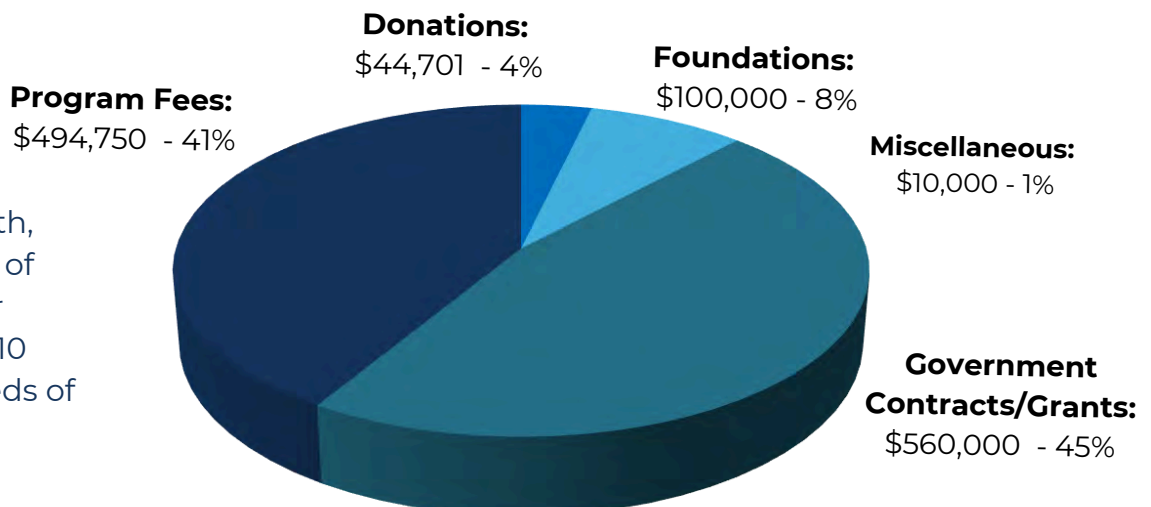
\$48,818 - 6.1%

Programs

\$746,236 - 93.8%

VAP's commitment to low overhead cost continued this year with just 6% of expenses going to administrative expenses and 94% of dollars spent on direct services for veterans and their families.

Sources of Revenue



With continuing growth, VAP's FY2024 revenue of \$1,209,451 enabled our largest team yet, with 10 people serving hundreds of veterans.



SUPPORTERS

\$200,000+

Jericho Project
New York City Department
of Veterans' Services

\$100,000 - \$199,999

City of New York, New York City Council
Department of Veterans Affairs
Services for the UnderServed
Sozosei Foundation

\$50,000 - \$99,999

New York State Department
of Veterans' Services

\$10,000 - \$49,999

Community Healthcare Network
John and Julie Nowak
Orrick Herrington Sutcliffe Foundation

\$5,000 - \$9,999

Drexel Hamilton
PayPal

\$2,500 - \$4,999

Melissa Fay
Andrew W. Singer
Willie Wright

\$100 - \$2,499

David Carpenter, Home Depot
Coco Culhane
Fidelity Charitable Giving
Michael D. Grohman
Jerry and Janet Jones
Stephen C. Lessard
Erika Steinberg
Charles Stevens, Raytheon Technologies
Charity Custodial
Rich Thomas

\$1 - \$99

Sidney Covington
Jennifer Miller
Jennifer Thompson

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Chair

- Melissa Hiler Fay
Drexel Hamilton

Secretary & Treasurer

- Stephen C. Lessard
Latham & Watkins

President & Executive Director

- Coco J.M. Culhane
Veteran Advocacy Project

Directors

- Sidney Covington
AmeriVet Securities
- Michael D. Grohman
Duane Morris LLP
- John Nowak
Schulte, Roth + Zabel LLP
- Andrew W. Singer
*Tannenbaum Helpern
Syracuse & Hirschtritt LLP*
- Rich Thomas
Lazard
- Willie Wright
GE Capital

STAFF

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Connie Cabrera

DOD Advocate

Madeline Colvin

Staff Attorney

Coco Culhane

Executive Director

Robin Emmanuelli

Senior Staff Attorney

Amy Hozer-Weber

Director, Civil Practice

Daniel Lucas

Legal Advocate

Felicia Mullaney

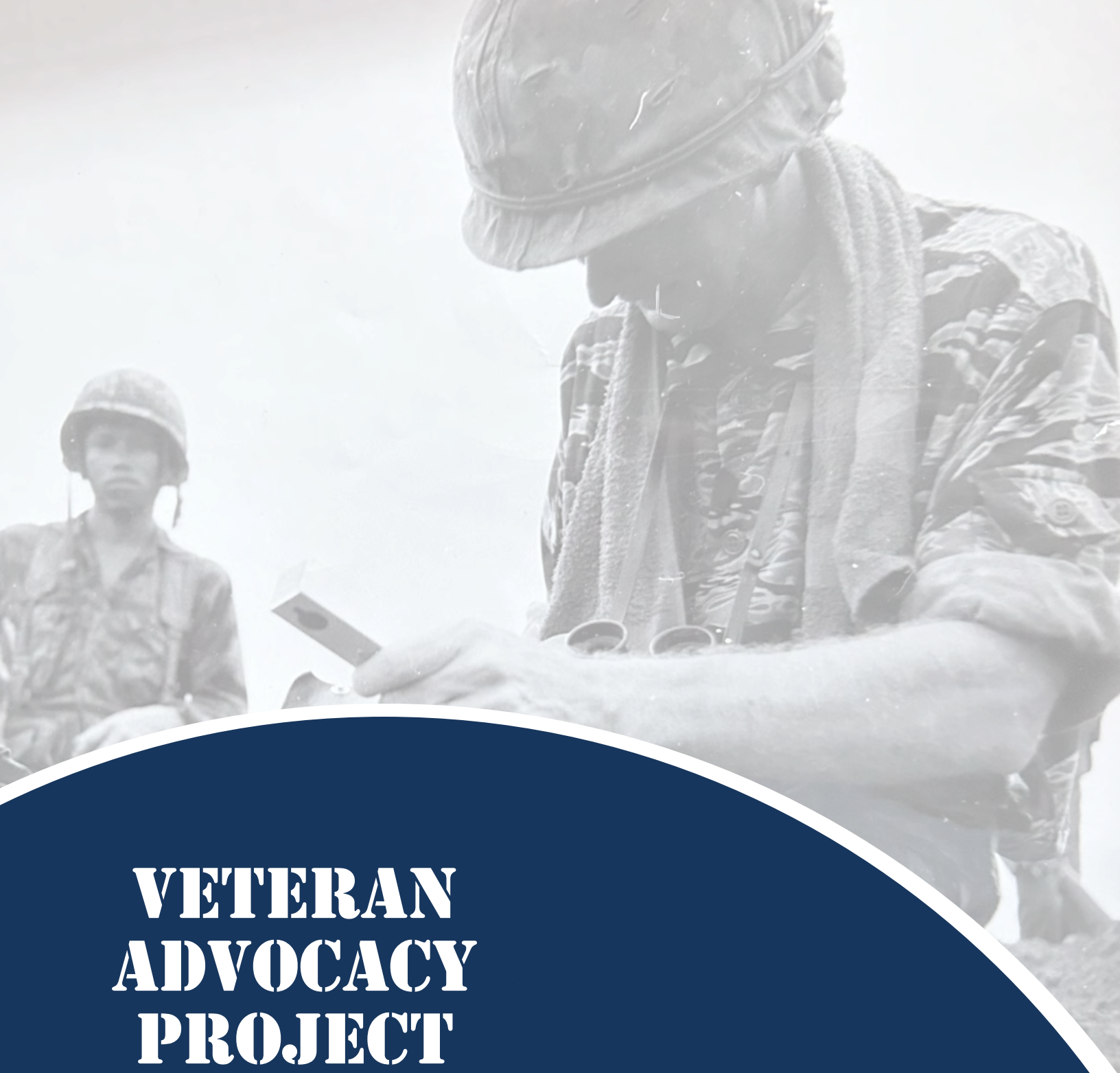
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