

11-11-2014

## Veterans Lead the Way at Golden Gate Law

Rachel A. Van Cleave

Golden Gate University School of Law, [rvanleave@ggu.edu](mailto:rvanleave@ggu.edu)

Follow this and additional works at: <http://digitalcommons.law.ggu.edu/pubs>

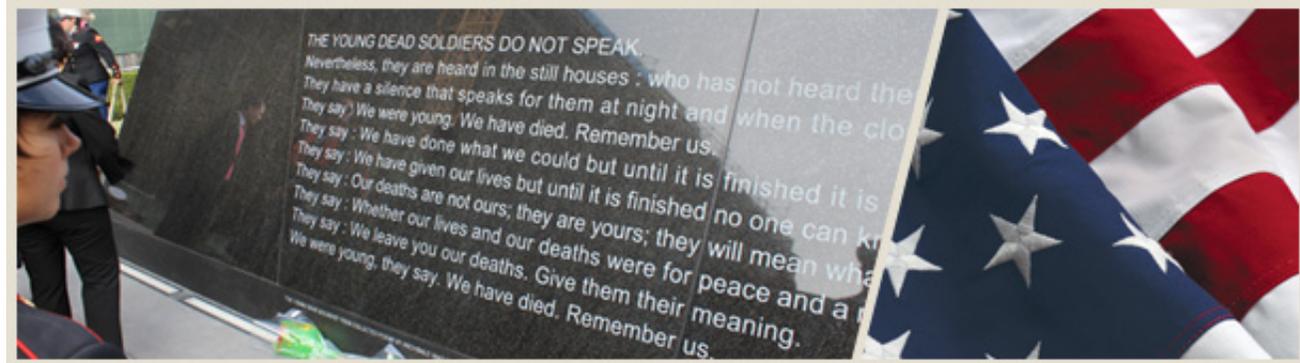
 Part of the [Other Law Commons](#)

---

### Recommended Citation

Van Cleave, Rachel A., "Veterans Lead the Way at Golden Gate Law" (2014). *Publications*. Paper 652.  
<http://digitalcommons.law.ggu.edu/pubs/652>

This Newsletter or Magazine is brought to you for free and open access by the Faculty Scholarship at GGU Law Digital Commons. It has been accepted for inclusion in Publications by an authorized administrator of GGU Law Digital Commons. For more information, please contact [jfischer@ggu.edu](mailto:jfischer@ggu.edu).



This Veterans Day I write to express my deep respect for all who have served their country. In particular, I feel profound gratitude toward our students, faculty, staff and alumni who have worn the uniform to protect our deepest values: Virtue, Honor, Respect, and Understanding, to name a few.



There is a lot we can learn from our veterans, those who volunteered to be placed in harm's way so that the rest of us might prosper. These lessons extend not only to our daily lives, but to the realm of law and legal education.

Please take a moment to read about what GGU Law does for veterans. Below is an expose on our new Veterans Legal Advocacy Center, and a review of our Second Annual Veterans Law Conference, which featured Will Gunn and John Keker.

## The Veterans Legal Advocacy Center

*"[The VLAC] worked on my claim and succeeded in doing what I could not in 40 years, they got the VA to finally acknowledge my service-connected injuries and grant me VA healthcare."*

*- David Jackson, Navy Veteran*



Professor Devoy

Golden Gate University School of Law is the first law school in Northern California to develop a legal center to address the growing needs of a traditionally under-served population: Our veterans.

The Veterans Legal Advocacy Center (VLAC) began at GGU Law in the fall of 2014, under the direction of Army combat veteran and GGU Law Professor, Daniel Devoy. The VLAC's initial services were procuring veteran benefits for veterans who had earned them, and advocating for discharge upgrades for persons questionably released from military service. Recently, the VLAC has begun providing on-site legal services to incarcerated veterans as the Center prepares to integrate with, and work in support of the Bay Area Veterans Treatment Court.

The VLAC aims to give every law student the opportunity to help meet the legal needs of our nation's returning service men and women, and to support our veterans' successful transition to civilian life. In doing so, the VLAC offers students specialized courses in veteran law and access to various veteran service organizations. Further, GGU Law has more than doubled the number of veterans in this year's 1L class while providing Yellow Ribbon Tuition Assistance to 100% of all qualifying applicants.

**Links:**

[VLAC in Lawdragon](#)

[VLAC Website](#)

## Second Annual Veterans Law Conference

*"Law students and practitioners alike must recognize this in the vets who are their clients. Go back to the fact they were volunteers, they see themselves as warriors, self controlled, independent, capable, in charge of themselves. The idea of being labeled as suffering with a disorder or dependent on others, that stigma is very, very hard for these people to accept."*

*- John Kecker*

This year, Golden Gate University School of Law hosted its second annual Veterans Law Conference as we work to address the growing health, legal, and employment needs of our nation's returning veterans. The conference was a great success.

Assembling some of the greatest minds in the country, GGU Law featured prominent speakers such as John Kecker, Partner at Kecker & Van Nest, and Will Gunn, former General Counsel for the Department of Veterans Affairs. They were joined by expert panelists to address areas of care and the best means of addressing the growing needs of returning veterans.

We were very fortunate to have a journalist from *Lawdragon* attend the event and write about our speakers and what GGU Law does for its veterans. Please read the *Lawdragon* articles below.

**Read:**

[About Will Gunn's Speech](#)

[About John Kecker's Advice](#)

[More on the Veterans Law Conference](#)

This Veterans Day, we ask that you join us in supporting our nation's veterans through a gesture of good will, whether it be a helping hand for a veteran in need or through a small donation to a non-profit organization that supports veterans near you.

**Sincerely,**

Dean Rachel Van Cleave  
Golden Gate University School of Law