



# IMPACT REPORT 2017

*Providing a future of hope and dignity for our veterans and their families*

## MISSION

Veterans Legal Institute (VLI) is a 501(c)(3) organization that provides pro bono legal assistance to homeless, at risk, disabled and low income current and former service members to eradicate barriers to housing, healthcare, education, and employment and foster self-sufficiency. VLI also advocates on behalf of its clients by providing community education and policy advocacy in an effort to increase awareness, resources, and overall protections to current and former members of the US military.

### Legal Services are *Critical* to Empowerment

1647 individual cases opened, of which 83% were male, 17% were female, & 38% were older veterans

32 mobile clinics at the VA Hospital Long Beach, Starbucks Coffee, Saddleback College, OC Veterans Service Office, & the City of Mission Viejo

36% of cases addressed veterans benefits and discharge upgrades-- an increase of 16% over 2016

60 individual cases were dedicated to keeping veterans in their homes

### Homeless & Low Income Veterans & Their Families Face *Significant & Diverse* Challenges

19 - 99 is the age range of our veterans served with an average age of 47

892 children were supported through empowering veteran parent(s)

\$1,500 or less is our client's average income

\$1,600 is the median rent in Southern California

### Increasing Legal Advocacy Requires *Creative* Commitment

48 outreach events tailored to connecting veterans with specialized resources

33 pro bono attorneys & volunteers assisted on women's cases

40 pro bono cases in military sexual trauma

200+ volunteers & summer law clerks provided 6,000+ hours of service