

Marine Corps Spouse Delivers Power of Pro Bono Legal Services for Decades

Often times the difference between homelessness and safely housed is having a strong advocate in your corner. Veterans Legal Institute is committed to serving our heroes when they need it most so they do not face challenging systems alone. As one of the very few public interest law firms in the nation dedicated to veterans, VLI rallies hundreds of volunteers in the community each year to answer the call - from all walks of life and sizes of law firms, solo to global.

One tireless pro bono attorney is Nancy Jones, Esq. volunteering at Veterans Legal Institute for over 4 years and serving over 100 low income veterans. Mrs. Jones is part of the Marine military family, happily married for almost 24 years to now Ret. Marine Colonel Matthew Jones, currently working for the Office of the Commandant of the Marine Corps. They share three wonderful children, 22, 20 and 18.

Nancy started her legal career with an undergraduate degree in business finance and accounting from the University of Michigan, and her law degree from the University of San Diego. She began her private sector attorney career with Coopers & Lybrand in Norfolk, Virginia as a legal tax associate in the non-profit department. After living for three years in Norfolk, the Marine Corps ordered Matt to school in Quantico. Nancy was faced with living apart from her husband in their first year of marriage and continuing her job in Norfolk for 8 more months or moving with him to Quantico and giving up her job. She moved to Quantico.

Realizing no one would hire her for only 8 months, Nancy volunteered her services to the Income Tax Assistance program (VITA) at Quantico, assisting military families with tax return preparation at no cost. This experience encouraged her to continue giving back to the military community. For over 20 years, Nancy has donated

her skills to the local military community. Her volunteerism includes the VITA programs at Camp Pendleton and 29 Palms, assisting hundreds of military families over the years and using her financial background to assist the Navy Marine Corps Relief Society in Arlington by helping to draft and implement financial policy. At each professional crossroads during her career, Nancy eschewed private practice for the deeper rewards of volunteering to stand with our military families.

Constant moves for short periods of time challenge military spouses trying to maintain a career. Like many of her peers, Nancy found it difficult to maintain her professional licenses with moves between States every couple of years. However, working with Federal laws, Nancy built continuity by specializing in Federal Tax and VA benefits matters.

Nancy continues dedicating her talents to assisting military families at no cost. In 2015, she joined VLI as a volunteer tax lawyer, specializing in tax assistance, tax controversy, and veterans benefits. Since joining VLI, Nancy has donated over 300 hours free legal care so our veterans could forge new futures at home. Her recent advocacy includes fighting to obtain proper VA benefits for a female marine diagnosed with lupus; correcting a financial error with a VA debt resulting in the waiver of a miscalculated \$44,000 debt and proper determination of pension for the veteran; resolving a significant tax dispute for a veteran with multiple sclerosis; and finalizing an offer in compromise with the IRS to settle a Vietnam Veteran's \$400,000 in tax debt for \$12,500.

Mrs. Nancy Jones is an integral part of the tribe at Veterans Legal Institute empowering veterans to self-sufficiency. We are proud to congratulate and honor Nancy for her career-long dedication



and selfless service to active duty service members, veterans and their families.

Join our cadre of veteran champions who give anything they can to bring free legal services to our veterans and military families. Together, we can greatly reduce veteran suicide and homelessness and bring hope that lasts for generations. Since its founding in 2014, VLI

has served over 6,000 veterans and restored over two million dollars in veterans benefits. To learn more about joining the pro bono network, board and committee service, sponsoring or underwriting, please contact Executive Director and Co-Founder Antoinette Balta at abalta@vetslegal.com or visit us at www.vetslegal.org

