

## **Chairman's Forum:**

**I am pleased to introduce the third volume of the *Veterans Law Review*. The advent of the *Veterans Law Review* in 2008 was a highlight of my tenure as Chairman. This third volume continues that tradition of excellence by introducing a new Board of Editors and welcoming the first submissions by scholars outside of the Department and the courts. These evolutions reinforce the critical role of the *Veterans Law Review* as a forum that addresses the legal issues and policy concerns faced by VA's Office of General Counsel, the Board of Veterans' Appeals, the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (Court), and the United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit (Federal Circuit) in their service to our nation's Veterans and their families.**

**The articles in this volume of the *Review* take both a macroscopic and a microscopic view into the history of the ever-expanding universe of veterans' benefits law. The importance of understanding our nation's history is clear. The essayist George Santayana once stated, "a country without a memory is a country of madmen." This concept is particularly poignant when we analyze how the law affects our Veterans, for they are the glue that holds our country together. First, Professor Michael Allen offers a general overview of recent developments in veterans' case law including his insights regarding the significant trends over the last two years. Then, there is a closer inspection of how the Court interprets VA regulations by Professor Linda Jellum. Her article provides a unique perspective on *Chevron* deference. Next, James Ridgway gives us a fascinating view of the treatment of the Veteran in the United States of America throughout its history beginning with a look at how we provided for the first American Veterans following our victory in the Revolutionary War. Mr. Ridgway gives an in-depth portrayal of the political and societal impacts debated by Congress as it addressed the**

question of the quality and quantity of benefits to the Veteran population. Finally, the *Review* includes an examination of what may be “future history” in an article by Board Counsel Emily Woodward Deutsch and Robert James Burriesci. Their article discusses the potential long-term effects of the case of *Cushman v. Shinseki*, in which the Federal Circuit recognized a constitutionally-protected property interest for applicants seeking VA benefits.

I believe this volume of the *Veterans Law Review* and its carefully written articles, reviews, and notes reflects the commitment that the Department, our courts, and all those interested in veterans’ law have to providing the very best legal services to each of our nation’s Veterans. Thus, I enthusiastically commend to you these articles, as well as the two notes and three book reviews contained in this volume.

James P. Terry