



**VERMONT POVERTY LAW FELLOWSHIP
VERMONT VETERANS LEGAL ASSISTANCE PROJECT
SOUTH ROYALTON LEGAL CLINIC
VERMONT LAW SCHOOL**

I. Introduction:

Katelyn Atwood is a Vermont-licensed attorney and is coordinating the Vermont Veterans Legal Assistance Project (VVLAP). The Project is funded by the Vermont Bar Foundation in conjunction with the Access to Justice Campaign. Attorney Atwood is practicing out of the South Royalton Legal Clinic at the Vermont Law School.

II. Client Representation:

VVLAP represents veteran clients at and under 125% of the federal poverty guidelines (with certain income exclusions). The Project focuses on veteran clients with civil law issues in Windsor and Orange counties, and on veterans statewide with veteran law specific issues, such as VA disability benefits or upgrading a service member's discharge so they can access certain benefits.

III. Collaborative Efforts:

In addition to direct legal representation, Attorney Atwood travels across the state and the country to build a holistic program to serve Vermont's veterans. She will be coordinating a statewide training for Vermont lawyers to become fully equipped to assist veterans in early summer of 2015. Attorney Atwood has attended conferences for veterans law attorneys at John Marshall Law School in Chicago and the American Bar Association in Washington, D.C. to represent the program on a national level.

Attorney Atwood has met with many stakeholders in the veterans community in Vermont, including the director of the State Office of Veterans Affairs, the poverty law project attorneys at Vermont Legal Aid, social workers at the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) hospital in White River Junction and Burlington Lakeside Clinic. She works with these stakeholders on an ongoing basis.

A major project that Attorney Atwood and student clinicians from the South Royalton Legal Clinic are starting is to advise veterans on the last Friday of every month on child support issues at the VA Hospital in White River Junction. She will be assisting with other policy projects as they arise.