

LOCKE LORD DIVERSITY AWARENESS

November 2016: Veterans Day

The United States established Veterans Day (formerly known as Armistice Day) as a legal holiday to commemorate the end of World War I, which occurred on November 11, 1918. A 1938 Congressional Act provided for the 11th of November of each year to be a legal holiday and "a day to be dedicated to the cause of world peace and to be thereafter celebrated and known as 'Armistice Day'." In 1954, following World War II and the Korean War, Congress amended the act by changing the name to Veterans Day to honor American veterans of all wars.



The needs of many of America's veterans are great and lawyers from around the Firm work tirelessly in support of veterans organizations. Highlights include:

- Our Boston lawyers provide pro bono legal support to active duty military members, veterans and their families through the Boston Bar Association Military & Veterans Legal Help Line.
- Our Houston lawyers have participated in the Veterans Legal Initiative established by the Houston Bar Association, Houston Bar Foundation and Houston Volunteer Lawyers that provides free legal advice and legal representation to U.S. veterans. To date, the program has served over 11,000 veterans with advice and counsel or legal representation.
- A Dallas Partner is a current Commissioner to the Texas Access to Justice Commission, a statewide organization committed to increasing access to justice for low-income Texans. Our Firm Chair serves as co-chairman of the Texas Access to Justice Commission Gala, which raises money to support civil legal services to low-income Texas veterans.
- In 2015, the Firm and one of our Boston lawyers were recognized for pro bono work on behalf of VETSports, Inc. — a Washington, D.C.-based non-profit that helps veterans achieve better physical, mental and emotional health through sports, physical activity and community involvement. Locke Lord has provided employment law advice to VETSports and has helped the organization obtain trademarks.
- On November 10, 2016, lawyers from our Stamford, Hartford, New York and West Palm Beach offices will perform as the "Rocke Lords of Locke Lord" band in the Law Rocks 2016 Annual Tour in New York. The Locke Lord band will be competing to raise money to benefit the veterans, lawyers and staff at the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center (CVLC) in New Haven, CT. We partner with the CVLC as a referral source for veteran pro bono clients who we assist with various legal issues including housing and correcting military records.

While all of our veterans are important and deserving of our thanks, recent veterans of the Iraq and Afghanistan Wars face pressing challenges. We encourage you to visit the following organizations' websites to learn how you can advocate for veteran equality, support military families, help veterans improve their mental health and find employment opportunities:

- U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (<https://www.va.gov/>)
- Military Order of the Purple Heart (<http://www.purpleheart.org/>)
- Iraq and Afghanistan Veterans of America (<http://iava.org/>)
- Veterans of Foreign Wars (<http://www.vfw.org/>)
- American Legion (<http://www.legion.org/>)
- Disabled American Veterans (<https://www.dav.org/>)

The heart of Locke Lord lies within our people and the many different experiences and perspectives we share. We recognize, embrace and celebrate our differences and believe we can only provide our clients with the best possible representation if we reflect the diversity of the clients and communities we serve.

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Lord^{LLP}

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