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School of Law
UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA



Major Gift from Renowned Trial Attorney Jim Butler Enhances Support for Veterans

Dear alumni, alumnae and friends,

I am pleased to share with you that the Veterans Legal Clinic – operated by the University of Georgia School of Law – has helped approximately 370 veterans and their family members claim over \$1 million in additional benefits since its establishment in 2018 and that this impact is expected to grow exponentially with the expansion of services for Georgia military veterans and their families later this year.

Thanks to additional financial support from renowned Georgia trial lawyer and 1977 alumnus James E. “Jim” Butler Jr., the Athens-based clinic – which assists former military members in Georgia with claims before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs – will soon be able to offer:

- A virtual remote outreach program for Georgia veterans statewide, turning last year’s successful pilot of the Georgia Veterans Outreach Project into a permanent service.
- Psychological and medical evaluations to determine the existence of invisible injuries sustained during military service, including those resulting from trauma or toxic exposure.
- Self-advocacy webinars that will educate and empower former military members as they work with the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and other agencies on various benefits and services that are available to them as veterans.

I am grateful to Jim Butler for his steadfast commitment to Georgia’s veterans and the School of Law. This latest funding will have a transformational impact on the services the Veterans Legal Clinic can provide. It will allow us to build our capacity and scale our efforts with new technologies, ultimately benefiting more Georgians who have served our country. I simply cannot thank Jim enough.

With gifts made to the law school in memory of his father, Lt. Cmdr. James E. Butler Sr., who was a U.S. Navy fighter pilot and his brother, Dennis Butler, who served in the U.S. Army, Jim said he considers it an honor to help the law school serve those who served us all.

Veterans Legal Clinic Director Alexander W. Scherr said this latest investment by Butler will help with efforts to assist veterans throughout the state, especially those in small towns and rural areas in Georgia. “It can be hard for veterans to find legal help in these areas so this expansion of services will fill a true void,” he said.

An important part of the law school’s mission is serving state and society, and the Veterans Legal Clinic is an excellent example of what a law school can do while also preparing the next generation of legal leaders. I want to thank Jim again for his role in making this clinic a continued success and an excellent training ground for our students.

Peter B. “Bo” Rutledge
Dean & Talmadge Chair of Law



Jim Butler (J.D. '77) helped create the Veterans Legal Clinic with a lead gift in 2018. He also supports the school's Butler Commitment, which guarantees financial aid to 100% of student veteran Juris Doctor matriculants.

Pictured above in the center is Veterans Legal Clinic Director Alexander W. Scherr, who works with law students assisting former military members in Georgia with claims before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.

*Your continued support is an important part of the School of Law's success.
Please consider [making a gift](#).*



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