



**Veterans Advocate Training Program**  
**Presented by the Thomas M. French Veterans Advocacy Fund**  
**Friday, April 25, 2025**  
**VLGS Campus and Virtual**

- 8 a.m.**            **In-Person Registration Opens**
- 8:30 a.m.**        **VA Benefits: Nuts and Bolts**  
*Don Hayes, Esq., South Royalton Legal Clinic, VLGS*
- 9:30 a.m.**        **Working Claims at the RO: Evidence Development and Appeals**  
*Tim Mercer, Esq., The Bluestein Group*
- 10:30 a.m.**      **Break**
- 11 a.m.**           **Obtaining a Character of Service Determination: Review of New Standards**  
*Andrew Thibeault, Esq., The Bluestein Group*
- 12 p.m.**          **State of the VA**  
*Morgana Isenberg, Department of Veterans Affairs, Legal Administrative Specialist Contact Representative*
- 12:30 p.m.**     **Lunch**
- 1 p.m.**            **Beyond the RO: Appellate Process from CAVC to the Supreme Court**  
*David Giza, Esq., Chisholm Chisholm & Kilpatrick LTD*

*\*All times are listed in ET*