Florida is home to 1.8 million of the country’s 21.5 million veterans. Many of our veterans face service-related problems that are not being adequately addressed. This symposium will discuss the various barriers veterans face when they return stateside and explore the importance of the collaborative partnership process when assisting veterans with reintegration. Discussion will focus on the difficult legal and medical problems veterans face. These include the consequences of exposure to Agent Orange, traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder, multiple deployments, and military sexual trauma.

Speakers

Jayme Cassidy, J.D., joined the Shepard Board Law Center to launch the Veterans Law Clinic. She currently directs the clinic, in addition to teaching a seminar on the Legal Rights of Veterans. A practicing attorney since 1993, she is experienced in complex civil and criminal litigation and has a solid background in state and federal practice. Prior to joining Nova Southeastern University, she created and implemented the VALOR Project (Veteran Advocates Legal Outreach and Representation) at Coast-to-Coast Legal Aid of South Florida, Inc. VALOR is a medical-legal partnership with the Department of Veterans Affairs.

Nancy Klimas, M.D., is the director of the NSU College of Osteopathic Medicine’s Institute for Neuro-Immune Medicine and chair of Clinical Immunology at Nova Southeastern University. She is a leading national researcher and internationally recognized figure in the treatment of Gulf War illness. Klimas has advised U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services Kathleen Sebelius on matters relating to chronic fatigue syndrome and has worked closely with such notable organizations as the Department of Defense, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and the National Institutes of Health.

“Creativity is a drug I cannot live without.” — Cecil B. DeMille