

THE COMMONWEALTH OF MASSACHUSETTS  
EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS' SERVICES  
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December 14, 2010

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SECRETARY, EOHHS

THOMAS G. KELLEY  
SECRETARY, DVS

Attorney Don Lassman  
P.O. Box 920385  
Needham, MA 02492

Dear Attorney Lassman:

At this time of the year it seems appropriate to acknowledge those that have recognized the great sacrifices of our returning servicemen and women and our veterans.

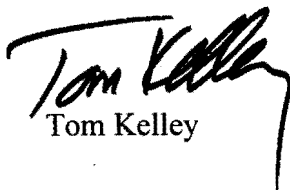
Deborah L. Rhode, Director of the Stanford Center on the Legal Profession said "It is a shameful irony that the nation with the most lawyers has among the least adequate systems for legal assistance. It is more shameful still that the inequities attract so little concern. An estimated four-fifths of the legal needs of the poor, and the needs of two to three fifths of middle-income individuals, remain unmet. Over the last two decades, national spending on legal aid has been cut by a third, and increasing restrictions have been placed on the cases and clients that government-funded programs can accept."

You have all stepped up to meet these challenges and to aid those that otherwise may not have the access to justice that the founding fathers of this nation envisioned.

Legal issues are daunting to our returning heroes when added to the stress coming off of the battlefield and transitioning to civilian life and facing any number of physical or mental health problems. You have lessened this burden by the service you have provided.

The Department of Veterans' Services thanks you and wishes you and yours a healthy and safe holiday season.

Sincerely,

  
Tom Kelley