



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

Training Conference June 15-18, 2026 Franklin, Indiana

Monday, June 15, 2026

0800-0830	Welcome by Jacob “Jake” Adams, Director, Indiana Department of Veterans Affairs
0830-0930	Introductions / Basics of Veterans Law History, Sources of Veterans Law, VA Accreditation, POAs, Advocacy Agreements
0930-0945	Break
0945-1030	Understanding Your Client Client Types, Military Records
1030-1145	Basic Eligibility for Veterans Benefits Veteran Defined, Reserves & National Guard, Length of Service, Character of Service Determinations
1145-1315	Lunch
1315-1345	Intro to Discharge Upgrades Types of Cases, Service Discharge Review Boards, Boards of Correction
1345-1530	Entitlement to Veterans Benefits Basic Rules, CRDP, CRSC, Caluza Elements, Direct Service Connection, Aggravation, Presumption, Secondary Connection, Soundness
1530-1545	Break

1545-1645	Entitlement to Veterans Benefits Continued
1645-1700	Discussion and Questions

Tuesday, June 16, 2026

0800-0845	VBA Update – Mr. Abner Concepcion, Assistant Director, & Mr. William Bethea, Assistant Director, Indianapolis VA Regional Office
0845-0930	Disability Caused by VA Medical Care • Requirements, Causation, Federal Tort Claims Act
0930-0945	Break
0945-1200	Mechanics of Building an Original Claim • Interviewing, Taking POA, Obtaining/Reviewing Records, Lay Evidence, VA Rating Schedule, ITF, Filing the Claim
1200-1330	Lunch
1330-1430	Adjudicating Disability Ratings • VA Evaluation Rules, Duty to Assist, VA Ratings, Extraschedular Ratings, VA Decisions, Temporary 100% Ratings
1430-1445	Break
1445-1600	Trauma Claims • PTSD, MST, TBI
1600-1645	TDIU Ratings • Basics, Types of Employment, Development, Effective Dates, Incarceration
1645-1700	Discussion and Questions

Wednesday, June 17, 2026

0800-0830	Discussion and Questions
0830-1000	Special Monthly Compensation (SMC) • Basics, Eligibility, Levels, Formula
1000-1015	Break
1015-1115	Award Effective Dates • General Rules, Secondary Service Connection, Claims Under 38 C.F.R. § 3.156(c), Increased Rating Claims, <i>Nehmer</i> Claims, Blue Water Navy Claims, PACT Act Claims
1115-1200	Claims for Increased Ratings • Scenarios, Filing, Development, AMA Basics
1200-1330	Lunch
1200-1230	INCVSO Association Meeting
1330-1415	Reduced Ratings • Rating Reduction Rules, Severance of Service Connection, VA Procedures
1415-1515	Pension • Improved Pension Basics, MAPR and Countable Income, Medical Expense Deductions from Countable Income, Net Worth, Assets, Asset Transfer and Penalty Periods
1515-1530	Survivor Pension and Dependency Indemnity Compensation
1530-1545	Break
1545-1700	Miscellaneous Issues • Fiduciaries, Substitution, Apportionment, Debt Management, Clear & Unmistakable Error (CUE)
1700	Questions

Thursday, June 18, 2026

0800-0830	Discussion and Questions
0830-0930	Ethics for Service Officers
0930-0945	Break
0945-1030	Caregiver Benefits
1030-1130	Inadequate Medical Exams • Adequacy of Examinations, Specific Examination Inadequacies
1130-1300	Lunch
1300-1530	Appeals (with Break) • Legacy Appeals, AMA Appeals, Case Review, Forum Election, Drafting Arguments, Hearings, Remands
1530-1600	NVLSP
1600-1700	Conclusion

----- **End of Training** -----