

Department of Veterans Affairs

§ 20.606

so from the Office of the General Counsel as provided in §14.630 of this chapter.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5903)

[57 FR 4109, Feb. 3, 1992, as amended at 61 FR 20450, May 7, 1996]

§ 20.606 Rule 606. Legal interns, law students and paralegals.

(a) *Consent of appellant.* If it is contemplated that a legal intern, law student, or paralegal will assist in the appeal, written consent must be obtained from the appellant. The written consent must include the name of the veteran; the name of the appellant if other than the veteran (e.g., a veteran's survivor, a guardian, or a fiduciary appointed to receive VA benefits on an individual's behalf); the applicable Department of Veterans Affairs file number; the name of the attorney-at-law; the consent of the appellant for the use of the services of legal interns, law students, or paralegals and for such individuals to have access to applicable Department of Veterans Affairs records; and the names of the legal interns, law students, or paralegals who will be assisting in the case. In the case of appeals before the Board in Washington, DC, the signed consent must be submitted to: Director, Management and Administration (01E), Board of Veterans' Appeals, 810 Vermont Avenue, NW., Washington, DC 20420. In the case of hearings before a Member or Members of the Board at Department of Veterans field facilities, the consent must be presented to the presiding Member of the hearing as noted in paragraph (d). Unless revoked by the appellant, such consent will remain effective in the event the original attorney of record is replaced by another attorney who is a member of the same law firm or another attorney employed by the same legal services office.

(b) *Supervision.* Legal interns, law students and paralegals must be under the direct supervision of a recognized attorney-at-law in order to prepare and present cases before the Board of Veterans' Appeals.

(c) *Hearings.* Legal interns, law students and paralegals who desire to participate at a hearing before the Board in Washington, DC, must make advance arrangements with the Director,

Management and Administration (01E) and submit written authorization from the attorney naming the individual who will be participating in the hearing. In the case of hearings before a Member or Members of the Board at Department of Veterans field facilities in the field, the attorney-at-law not less than 10 days prior to the scheduled hearing date must inform the office of the Department of Veterans Affairs official who gave notice of the Travel Board hearing date and time that the services of a legal intern, law student, or paralegal will be used at the hearing. At the same time, a prehearing conference with the presiding Member of the hearing must be requested. At the conference, the written consent of the appellant for the use of the services of such an individual required by paragraph (a) must be presented and agreement reached as to the individual's role in the hearing. Legal interns, law students or paralegals may not present oral arguments at hearings either in the field or in Washington, DC, unless the recognized attorney-at-law is present. Not more than two such individuals may make presentations at a hearing. The presiding Member at a hearing on appeal may require that not more than one such individual participate in the examination of any one witness or impose other reasonable limitations to ensure orderly conduct of the hearing.

(d) *Withdrawal of permission for legal interns, law students, and paralegals to assist in the presentation of an appeal.* When properly designated, the attorney-at-law is the recognized representative of the appellant and is responsible for ensuring that an appeal is properly presented. Legal interns, law students, and paralegals are permitted to assist in the presentation of an appeal as a courtesy to the attorney-at-law. Permission for a legal intern, law student, or paralegal to prepare and present cases before the Board may be withdrawn by the Chairman or presiding Member at any time if a lack of competence, unprofessional conduct, or interference with the appellate process is demonstrated by that individual.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 5904, 7105(b)(2))

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