

KIMBERLY M. ADAMS

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I am a passionate advocate and empowerment agent for veterans and their Families. As an Air Force Veteran, I understand the need to continue expansion of legal services for veterans and their families as well as develop collaborations with the VA, Veterans Treatment Courts and other like-minded community partners to join in this mission. I am also interested in learning more about the effects lack of inclusion and equity as it relates to women, minority, and LGBTQIA+ veteran communities and how legal service providers can collaborate to empower individuals to build stable and productive lives despite systemic barriers and other challenges they face.

When I am not working, I enjoy cooking, traveling, gardening, home brewing, and exploring new dining and craft beer establishments wherever my travels take me.

EXPERIENCE

SEPTEMBER, 2015 – PRESENT

LAW GRADUATE-VETERANS LEGAL ADVOCATE, COMMUNITY LEGAL AID SERVICES

I assist with providing quality legal representation in civil and veterans benefits matters to veterans and their families as well as other low-income individuals in Central Northeast Ohio. My major focus is providing assistance with development and presentation of VA benefits matters including disability compensation and character of service determinations as well as discharge upgrades. I also work extensively in the social security disability advocacy area.

Additionally, I collaborate with VA healthcare facilities, VA Homeless Veterans Programs, Veterans Service Commissions, and other community partners to ensure that veterans continue to have access to our services as well as coordinating outreach efforts for our Veterans Legal Team. I also represent our Veterans Legal Team at various Veterans Treatment Courts in our service area and conduct our intake clinics at VA medical and support facilities in Akron, Canton, and Youngstown.

SEPTEMBER, 2013 – SEPTEMBER, 2015

EQUAL JUSTICE LEGAL FELLOW, COMMUNITY LEGAL AID SERVICES

I developed the “Boots on the Ground” Veterans Justice Project that expanded free civil legal services for veterans and their family members in our service area. I also established collaborations with veterans service organizations and other social service agencies to establish holistic services for our clients, and participation in Veterans Treatment Courts. This project also established intake clinics at VA facilities in Akron, Canton and Youngstown to provide on-site access to civil legal services for veterans and their families.

EDUCATION

AUGUST, 2008-MAY, 2013

JURIS DOCTORATE, WAYNE STATE UNIVERSITY LAW SCHOOL

Academic Emphasis: Public Interest Law

Activities and Societies: Phi Alpha Delta International Law Fraternity; American Bar Association Law Student Division; Student Member-Affordable Housing and Community Development, Alternative Dispute Resolution, and Individual Rights and Responsibilities Sections; Council of Legal Education Opportunity-Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Program; Member-Law Student Congress, National LGBT Bar Association; American Association of Respiratory Care and Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated-General Member

AUGUST, 2008-MAY, 2008

B.S. WOMEN AND GENDER STUDIES, SUNY-BROCKPORT

Awards and Memberships-Alpha Chi National Academic Scholarship Society (2008), Who's Who in American Colleges and Universities (2008), Dean and President's List: 2006-2008, Donald J. McWherter Political Science Award (2008), Harriet Whitney Award (Women and Gender Studies Program-2008), Associate Member-Council on Legal Educational Opportunity (2006-2008), Student Member-Women and Gender Studies Board (2007-2008), and Captain-Intercollegiate Moot Court Team (2007).

SKILLS

- Knowledge of VA Disability Compensation Systems and Development of VA Disability Benefits cases
- Community Collaboration and Team Building
- Communication across diverse communities
- Public Speaking

MILITARY SERVICE

1985-1991 UNITED STATES AIR FORCE-SHORT RANGE ATTACK MUNITIONS SPECIALIST

Kimberly Adams
Veterans Legal Advocate
Bio

Ms. Adams is a law graduate and Veterans Legal Advocate for Community Legal Aid Services based out of Akron, Ohio.

Kimberly is a United States Air Force, combat Veteran serving during the Persian Gulf War.

She works specifically with public benefits matters and directs the Vets Legal Team's outreach efforts through Veteran Treatment Courts, Veteran Legal Clinics, and other community collaborations with Veteran service providers.