



DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS
Office of the General Counsel
Washington DC 20420

OCT 22 2009

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In Reply Refer To: 022D

Ms. Stephanie L. Schneider
Law Office of Stephanie Schneider
1860 N. Pine Island Road
Suite 111
Plantation, FL 33322

Dear Ms. Schneider:

It is a pleasure to welcome you as an accredited attorney for the preparation, presentation, and prosecution of claims for veterans benefits before the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA). Your accreditation is effective on the date of this letter.

Your accreditation is a privilege which carries specific responsibilities, one of which is the requirement to maintain the confidentiality of the information in veterans' records. As a condition of accreditation, you must comply with the laws governing the representation of claimants before VA in 38 U.S.C. chapter 59 and 38 C.F.R. part 14, and provide representation in accordance with the standards of conduct established by VA in 38 C.F.R. § 14.632.

Annual Certification (38 C.F.R. § 14.629(b)(4))

Within one year of your accreditation and every year thereafter, you must provide this office with information about every bar, court, or Federal or State agency to which you are admitted or authorized to appear. You must also certify in writing that you are in good standing in each jurisdiction, court, or agency in which you are admitted or authorized to appear. Any change in status must be reported to this office within 30 days. No particular form is required for these submissions.

Continuing Legal Education (CLE) (38 C.F.R. § 14.629(b)(1)(iii) and (iv))

To maintain your accreditation, you must complete three hours of qualifying CLE within one year of your accreditation. A qualifying CLE course must be approved for a minimum of three hours of CLE credit by any State bar association and, at a minimum, must cover representation before VA, claims procedures, basic eligibility for VA benefits, right to appeal, disability compensation (38 U.S.C. chapter 11), dependency and indemnity compensation (38 U.S.C. chapter 13), and pension (38 U.S.C. chapter 15). You must also complete an additional three hours of qualifying CLE on veterans benefits law

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Ms. Stephanie L. Schneider

and procedure not later than three years from the date of your accreditation and every two years thereafter. You must certify to this office in writing that you have completed these CLE requirements. This certification must include the title of the CLE, the date and time of the CLE, and contact information for the CLE provider, and must be submitted to VA as part of the annual certification prescribed by 38 C.F.R. § 14.629(b)(4).

We look forward to working with you. Please note that we will make your name and contact information publicly available at the Office of the General Counsel website, <http://www.va.gov/OGC/accreditation.asp>. Additional information regarding accreditation and the representation of claimants for veterans benefits is available on the website.

Sincerely,



David R. McLenachen
Deputy Assistant General Counsel