

STONE HILTON

STONE HILTON FILES FEDERAL LAWSUIT AGAINST VA RESTRICTIONS ON VETERANS' RIGHTS

October 15, 2026

AUSTIN - Stone Hilton PLLC today filed a federal [lawsuit](#) against the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, challenging restrictions that prevent veterans from paying for private assistance when preparing their initial disability benefits claims.

Filed in the U.S. District Court for the Northern District of Texas, the lawsuit represents PatriotClaims LLC, doing business as [VetClaims.ai](#), and Marine Corps veteran Joseph Johnson. The complaint argues that the Department of Veterans Affairs has exceeded its statutory authority and violated constitutional protections by restricting veterans' ability to obtain assistance from providers of their choosing.

"The current disability regime leaves veterans behind by forcing them to navigate a labyrinth to obtain the benefits to which they are entitled," said Stone Hilton chair, Judd E. Stone II.

VetClaims.ai, founded by Purple Heart veteran Lukas Simianer, provides educational resources, technology, and individualized guidance to help veterans prepare their own disability claims. The company has assisted more than 80,000 veterans in obtaining hundreds of millions of dollars in benefits.

Unlike traditional representation, VetClaims does not file claims or communicate with the VA on veterans' behalf. Veterans maintain control of their claims throughout the process.

The lawsuit raises claims under the First and Fifth Amendments and the Administrative Procedure Act, arguing that the VA's interpretation of federal law unlawfully restricts protected speech, veterans' freedom of choice, and access to assistance.



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