

## Sources for Medical Nexus Opinions, Claims File Reviews and Other Claim Support Services

### **MEDCONNECTVA** MEDICAL EXPERTS FOR VETERAN CLAIMS

This service is a bit pricey, but they do an excellent job in finding well-credentialed specialist MDs who produce credible and probative opinions.

Suzanne M. Caruso  
Director, Case Management  
Toll Free: 888.4VA.DOCS  
Direct: 203.414.3007  
[Suzanne@medconnectva.com](mailto:Suzanne@medconnectva.com)  
<http://www.medconnectva.com/>

### **Mediscope Consultants – Arrica Canty RN, BSN, CLNC**

A nurse who specializes in expert court witness testimony, insurance company opinions and VA nexus opinions. She does a fantastic job on VA nexus opinions at a very reasonable price. Her opinions are detailed, well-reasoned, probative and where necessary, backed up by medical literature evidence.

(704) 241-9962  
<http://www.mediscopeconsultants.com/>

### **Jon Brown**

Former VA employee and Decision Review Officer. He is not qualified to write nexus opinions but is an excellent source of information for appeals.

952-201-2799  
JonBrownAppeals@gmail.com  
<http://vetstbi.com/>

### **Dr. Brett Valette, Ph.D**

[http://www.veteranspsychevaluations.com/about\\_us.htm](http://www.veteranspsychevaluations.com/about_us.htm)  
[www.globalhealthevaluations.com](http://www.globalhealthevaluations.com) and [www.Shrink911.net](http://www.Shrink911.net)  
bvalette@aol.com  
Office: 303 465-3147

Dr. Brett Valette, Ph.D., licensed clinical psychologist, has been doing veterans and disability evaluations since 1998. In that time, he has completed over 22,000 forensic and disability evaluations. Dr. Valette is not a VA doctor, he is civilian doctor trained, experienced and knowledgeable about the VA system. Few psychologists in the US have this expertise. That's a difference when it comes to filing a claim with the VA.

As an expert in psychological evaluations, Dr. Valette provides Independent Medical Evaluations (IME), Independent Medical Opinions (IMO), nexus letters, ratings reviews for all psychological conditions including:

- PTSD - Post Traumatic Stress Disorder
- TBI- Traumatic Brain Injury
- Depression and Mood Disorders
- Panic and Anxiety Disorders
- MST - Military Sexual Trauma
- Cognitive and memory impairments
- Psychological symptoms secondary to pain, trauma and medical conditions
- Psychological symptoms and complications from Agent Orange exposure or chemical exposure, burn pits, etc
- Non-combat PTSD, depression and anxiety.
- IME
- IMO

Even if there are no symptoms, treatment notes, or service connected conditions in your medical record or military file, many times Dr. Valette can help you.

Most forensic evaluations involve medical record review and investigation with a medical opinion and rating. This can be done for any veteran, in any state, or internationally.

Dr. Valette looks for and corrects: misdiagnosis, mistakes and omission in your previous evaluations, identifies critical life issues that were not included or ignored by the C&P doctor. Identifies and corrects labels such as “Personality Disorder” or “Adjustment Disorder” that are frequently misused to deny benefits. Additionally he separates and identifies clinical conditions that are often inappropriately “coupled together” that decrease your rating and benefits. Such as “PTSD with depression and anxiety.”

Performing medical opinions in the 50 states is legal and ethical as long as the state guidelines and laws are followed. Some state laws are more rigid than others, some allow for “visiting or temporary privileges”, all criteria will be met according to each states requirements on the practice of psychology.

Dr. Valette is a National Register Psychologist #54029, a Credentialed Veteran Evaluation Service Psychologist, as well as licensed as a psychologist in Colorado, Nevada, Iowa, South Dakota, Washington, Texas, Alaska and Hawaii.

### **Doctor Craig Bash**

4938 Hampden Lane  
Bethesda, Md 20814

Cell/Text 240-506-1556  
Fax 301-951-9106  
[www.veteransmedadvisor.com](http://www.veteransmedadvisor.com)

Dr. Craig Bash has been helping veterans with independent medical opinions for over 20 years. In that time, he has helped over 4000 veterans with over 40,000 claims with a high success rate. He has hundreds of cases at the BVA, which can be searched under the BVA search engine or found on his web site at [www.veteransmedadvisor.com](http://www.veteransmedadvisor.com).

He has over 1,000 name mentions at the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC). He is an assistant Professor and invited lecturer at the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences. He has been an expert witness for world class medical systems such as the VA and Johns Hopkins medical centers. Additionally, he has 15 years of research experience at the National Institutes of Health (NIH) where he studied experimental MRI imaging of neurologic disease.

He was previously a deputy doctor of medical services at the Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA) and he has done over 50 sites visits to the VA's largest hospitals for quality of care purposes.

Dr. Bash has been 100% VA disabled since his 1984 spinal cord injury which required a 5 month VA inpatient rehabilitation stay. Thus he is familiar with VA care and rating system from a users prospective. He also professional knows the private and government sector issues in quality of care and how these care issues/diseases interface with the VA rating system. The key to his success is his training, credentials, thoroughness and experience with VA cases.

Craig N. Bash M.D., M.B.A.  
Neuro-Radiologist and Associate Professor

Dr. Bash works hard to get veterans the Maximum Available Benefits (MAB) for their disabilities. Some examples of his work are at the links below...

<http://www.theskanner.com/news/northwest/9088-doctor-helps-disabled-veterans-settle-benefits-claims-2010-12-22>

<http://www.theskanner.com/news/usa/18088-expert-says-biggest-delay-in-va-backlog-lies-with-wasteful-appeals-management-center-2013-04-05>

[http://salem-news.com/articles/march282009/quad\\_doc\\_3-29-08.php](http://salem-news.com/articles/march282009/quad_doc_3-29-08.php)

[http://www.theskanner.com/?searchword=craig+bash&option=com\\_search&searchphrase=exact&limit=50&ordering=newest](http://www.theskanner.com/?searchword=craig+bash&option=com_search&searchphrase=exact&limit=50&ordering=newest)

Radio:  
<http://www.svr-radio.com/archives.html>

### **Doctor Leah Wingear**

Call 855-949-3676 or email to [drwingear@gmail.com](mailto:drwingear@gmail.com).  
2990 Sunridge Heights Pkwy #100  
Henderson, NV 89052  
855-949-3676 (phone)  
888-363-8949 (fax)

Leah Wingear is a clinical psychologist, currently licensed in Nevada, Hawaii, and Colorado. She has a Bachelor's of Arts degree in Psychology from the University of Maryland, a Master's of Education degree in School Guidance and Counseling K-12 from Loyola College in Baltimore, and a Doctorate in Clinical Psychology with a specialization in health psychology from the University of Denver. She graduated Phi Beta Kappa and Summa Cum Laude from the University of Maryland and was inducted into Chi Sigma Iota while at Loyola College. She has worked in the mental health field as a school guidance counselor and as a clinical psychologist for 18 years. She served honorably in the U.S. Navy from 2008 to 2015 and is affiliated currently with the U.S. Naval Reserves. She lives and works primarily in Henderson, NV, but works also in Colorado and Hawaii throughout the year.

**Need more information, have questions, or want to do a free 15-minute phone or email consult?**

### **Dr. David Anaise**

Law offices of David Anaise MD  
1001 W San Martin Dr.  
Tucson AZ 85704  
520-219-7321  
520-219-7344  
Fax 520-844-1452  
<http://www.danaise.com/>

I am an attorney specializing in disability law and also a Board-Certified surgeon (transplant surgery) still licensed to practice medicine. As my curriculum vitae indicates [Appendix A], I am a surgeon with almost thirty years of medical experience. I was Clinical Associate Professor of Surgery and Attending Surgeon in Transplantation at SUNY at Stony Brook. I served as President of the New York Transplantation Society and as Assistant Editor of Transplantation Proceedings. I hold three patents. I have authored three book chapters and 106 research papers published in peer reviewed medical journals. I am also most proud of being a combat veteran. In 1973, I served in the Israeli Seventh Brigade (armored) during the Yom Kippur war.

I provide Independent medical opinion ( IMO Letters) to disabled veterans  
I provide Independent Medical Opinions (IMO Letters) to disabled Veterans in a form of a Nexus letter combining the best medical analysis and research with knowledge of the veteran's disability law. My purpose is to provide you with a nexus letter which will convince the DRO or the BVA judge that you are indeed disabled due to injuries incurred during your military service

## **Veteran Ratings**

<https://veteranratings.com/>

Provide DBQs signed by medical doctors.

## **Kimberly D'Amico, M 'Ed, SVP Operations**

This organization specializes in getting veterans rated for PTSD. They have the personnel who can do the evaluations and write the evaluation reports and they are successful in getting higher ratings in the neighborhood of 50% or 70% as opposed to other organizations who are not as successful.

Kimberly can be reached at 919-552-3111 ext. 110  
or [kdamico@omegacareplanningcouncil.org](mailto:kdamico@omegacareplanningcouncil.org)

They also provide VA approved modalities that have proven successful in treating the symptoms of PTSD without the use of powerful prescription drugs.

L Kimberly DAMico, M 'Ed, LPC, NCCMC  
President/ Clinical Director & Co founder of Omega Care Planning

Kimberly is a Nationally Certified Clinical Military Counselor, specializing in trauma therapy with expertise in helping VA attorneys and Agents nationwide with their trauma disability compensation claims. She is a prior VA National Claims agent who works alongside Jerome Sebesta (her husband and current National VA Claim agent). Together, they obtain successful outcomes and high ratings from the VA given their combined expertise. Kimberly provides the *Medical Opinions for PTSD, MST, Anxiety and Depression*, as well as preparing veterans to undergo the C&P for mental health. Getting thru the C&P is the number one reason veterans are denied. She also helps Veterans and significant others in preparing lay statements and other supporting claim documents. She ensures there is an Nexus from military experience to tie to the PTSD and other trauma criteria. She successfully obtains ratings starting at 50% and greater (70 % if suicidal ideation and 100% unemployable non rated awards if present) . She generally spends 12-15 hours per veteran in getting them prepared to tell their story and have specific examples to back up their PTSD, DSM 5 diagnosis. All supporting evidence such as lay statements and medical opinion necessary in obtaining a successful outcome is provided to the VA agent/attorney. Kimberly can help veterans nationally via HIPAA compliant video-conferencing. Her fee is generally around \$1500 for the entire effort but could be higher based on the circumstances of the case. Jerome Sebesta can also provide claim assistance where requested and provides attorneys/agents with much needed expertise in getting started with disability claim navigating and processing. He can also prepare the mental health claim and send a finished product to the attorney/agent representing the veteran under their 21-22a.

Finally, Kimberly is well versed in the VA medical system so can provide assistance in services and support offered through CBOC or actual VA hospitals.

For veterans and their families in the North Carolina area, Kimberly and her team love helping Veterans with stress reduction modalities for symptoms of PTSD with a emphasis on wellness instead of powerful prescription drugs. She can also coordinate with national providers who provide the same or similar modalities when veterans are requesting mental health support outside of the VA medical system. Some of these modalities include qEEG Brain Mapping, Neurofeedback, EMDR, CES, HRV, Mindfulness, etc. Check out Kimberly's website. [www.AlphamIndbraincenters.com](http://www.AlphamIndbraincenters.com).

### **Betty Epperly – Epperly Consulting**

[bepperly@msn.com](mailto:bepperly@msn.com)

540 330 2744

Littleton, North Carolina

Betty is a valuable resource as she is a retired employee of VA. She worked in the Roanoke Virginia Regional Office as a DRO (Decision Review Officer) and worked on an appeals team as well. Her knowledge about claims and claims evidence is extremely useful.

She conducts reviews of veterans claims files and provides advice and strategies for winning favorable decisions either with the Regional Office or with an appeal.

**She charges \$50.00 an hour for her services.**

### **Legal Nurse Consultant and Accredited Agent for Department of Veterans Affairs**

Company Name Epperly Consulting

Dates Employed Jul 2012 – Present

Employment Duration 5 yrs 2 mos

Location Littleton, North Carolina

Review records to determine validity of cases. I am now an Accredited Agent for the Department of Veterans Affairs. I also am able to review files to include medical evidence for attorneys, accredited agents for VA and veterans in order to determine the validity of claims or whether case was adjudicated correctly. I am able to review medical records for any types of cases, but specialize in veteran's claims and appeals.

### **Decision Review Officer**

Company Name Department of Veterans Affairs

Dates Employed Feb 2004 – Jul 2012

Employment Duration 8 yrs 6 mos

Location Roanoke, Virginia Area

Review of claims from veterans that had been denied and the veteran had disagreed with the denial of the benefit or the evaluation that was granted. Held personal hearings with veterans, family members and representatives. Worked closely with service organizations in order to timely decide claims as well as resolve the claims when possible. Review and preparation of files for certification to the Board of Veterans Appeals. Sat for and pass the DRO certification test. Filled in as acting coach for the Appeals Team Coach as well as reviewed ratings for

trends in mistakes and held training for rating specialists and veterans service representative for new issues, laws and regulations. Also served as the liaison from the Roanoke Regional Office to the VIST coordinators at the Virginia VA Medical Centers to assist in filing claims or to expedite blinded veteran's claims whenever possible. Held informational training sessions with veterans at the VAMC Salem. Was considered to be a SME (Subject Material Expert) on various subjects especially medical issues due to my nursing background.

### **Rating Specialist**

Company Name U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Dates Employed Jan 2001 – Feb 2004

Employment Duration 3 yrs 2 mos

Location Roanoke, Virginia Area

Review of disability claims and make decisions based on the review of service medical records and post service treatment records as to whether or not the disability actually occurred in service. Then based on the evidence determine the percentage of disability to which the veteran was entitled.

### **Registered Nurse**

Company Name U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs

Dates Employed Jan 2000 – Jan 2001

Employment Duration 1 yr 1 mo

Location VAMC Salem

Staff nurse for Long Term Care Unit where was responsible for giving medications, admission, ongoing assessments of patients, both for mental status and physical condition. Supervise floor as charge nurse for other RNs, LPNs and NAs. Make work assignments for staff. Patient care included dressing changes, feeding tubes for both medicating and nutrition, IV starts and maintenance for medication and rehydration purposes. Trach care and suctioning. Assisted MD with skin rounds, take off and follow orders from MD for patient care, use of medications and well being. Arranged staffing to cover shifts. Patient and family teaching as appropriate for health care and/or discharge instructions.

### **Registered Nurse, Clinician A & Clinician B**

Company Name Catawba Hospital (State Mental Facility)

Dates Employed Jul 1998 – Feb 2000

Employment Duration 1 yr 8 mos

Location Roanoke, Virginia Area

As a Clinician A was charge nurse on acute health and geriatric mental health floor to include patient care, giving medications, starting and maintaining IV therapy as well as the continuous assessment of both physical condition and mental status. Worked with MDs to follow orders for patient care the administration of ordered medications. Evaluated staffing coverage and teaching to both patients and family as appropriate.

As a Clinician B was night shift supervisor for mental hospital and included admissions, assessments both mental and physical of all patients. Determined staffing on all floors to insure

the continuity of the hospital operation and patient care/safety. Determined the need to call MOD and/or send patient out to hospital for treatment of physical conditions. Take information from community services for admissions and determine with Social Worker and MOD the suitability for admission to a state mental facility.

Education

**Radford University**

Degree Name Bachelor's degree

Field Of Study Nursing

Dates attended or expected graduation 1997 – 1998

Graduated Cum Laude.

**Virginia Western Community College**

Degree Name Associate's degree

Field Of Study Registered Nursing/Registered Nurse

Dates attended or expected graduation 1994 – 1997

Graduated Cum Laude

**Roanoke Memorial Hospital School of Practical Nursing**

Degree Name Diploma

Field Of Study Practical Nursing, Vocational Nursing and Nursing Assistants

Dates attended or expected graduation 1988 – 1989

Voted by faculty as Nurse of the Year.