

## **University of San Diego Veterans Legal Clinic: Educational Benefits Assistance**

**Presenter: Robert Muth, Supervising Attorney USD Veterans Legal Clinic**

- I. Services of the University of San Diego Veterans Legal Clinic
  - a. Appeals of VA disability ratings
  - b. Upgrade or modify discharge rating
  - c. Assist when veterans are having issues using their GI Bill
    - i. Outreach
    - ii. Review individual veterans' enrollment agreements
    - iii. Represent veterans during disputes with schools
- II. Education as a tool for transitioning to civilian life
  - a. Post 9/11 GI Bill
- III. For-Profit v. Non-Profit Schools
  - a. Why does it matter if For-Profit?
    - i. For-profit is revenue driven, likely to seek rapid revenue growth
    - ii. Non-profit is more likely to think long-term about their members or the public
  - b. How to find out if it is a For-Profit school?
  - c. The Harkin Senate Report
    - i. Two year investigation of for-profit schools
    - ii. Findings
      1. Aggressive and Deceptive Recruiting
      2. For-Profits (on average) spent 43% on marketing and profit, 17% on student instruction
      3. Poor student outcomes
      4. High student debt
      5. Other issues
- IV. How to Assess the Quality of an Education
  - a. Use reliable websites
  - b. Question "too good to be true" numbers or claims
  - c. Take time to understand agreements before signing
  - d. Learn about the accreditation of the school
    1. National Accreditation vs. Regional Accreditation
  - e. Resources
- V. Reasons Student Veterans are Targeted
- VI. The Veterans Legal Clinic