

# Veteran Gets Aid from HAP Volunteer

IN DECEMBER 2010, HOMELESS ADVOCACY Project volunteer Ross E. Bruch, an attorney at Saul Ewing LLP, met a homeless veteran at HAP's bi-monthly legal clinic at the Perimeter, a drop-in center for homeless veterans located in Old City.

The veteran suffered from post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), but the Department of Veterans Affairs had repeatedly denied compensation to the client based on his alleged failure to prove the stressful incidents that occurred while aboard the USS Guam during the U.S. invasion of Grenada in 1983. During 2011, Bruch tirelessly researched the vet's description of what happened and found corroborating evidence of the ship's participation in the invasion and, more specifically, of the vet's involvement. He then submitted the evidence to the VA, which sat on the evidence until Bruch proceeded to work his way up the VA chain of com-

mand to demand a decision. In January 2012, the VA responded by granting the veteran 100 percent disability, at \$2,769 per month. It also awarded the vet more than \$53,000 in back benefits. This is obviously a life-changing development for this homeless veteran, and HAP is convinced that Ross Bruch's involvement not only led to the VA's reversal of the denial, but that it also shortened the waiting time by a year or more.

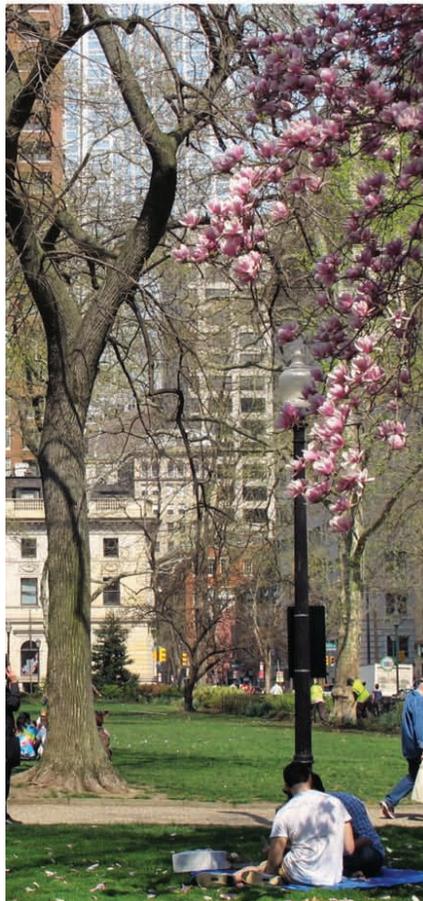
Bruch reports that the veteran is ecstatic. He was extremely grateful, and plans to be very careful with the money. In fact, he has already arranged to meet with a financial advisor at his bank. He is also considering creating a will, and will let HAP and Saul Ewing know if he would like help in this regard.

Overall this a great win for the veteran, Bruch and Saul's pro bono commitment to homeless veterans in partnership with HAP.



## Habitat Volunteers

Real Property Section volunteers (above, from left) Alexander F. Barth, Steven D. Rothberg, Robert J. O'Brien, Eileen Quigley, Matthew Gioffre, Anthony M. Bottenfield, Richard L. Vanderslice and Coren J. Wise worked on a Habitat for Humanity project on June 28. The volunteers installed siding on a house at 1900 Morse St. in North Philadelphia, just west of Temple University.



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