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T. Raber Taylor

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## **On-the-Job Training and Self-Employment Readjustment Benefits for the Lawyer-Veteran†**

By T. RABER TAYLOR

The Servicemen's Readjustment Act of 1944, commonly called the "G.I. Bill of Rights," was passed to provide federal government aid in the readjustment to civilian life of the returning World War II veterans. For the lawyer-veteran's readjustment, there are two types of benefits of special interest; these are: on-the-job training benefits, and self-employment readjustment benefits. Although the act also provides for loans up to \$4,000 to start in practice, they will not be discussed in this article.

### **On-The-Job Training Benefits**

All persons who have served in active military or naval service on or after September 6, 1940, and prior to the termination of World War II, and whose release has been under conditions other than dishonorable, are eligible for on-the-job training. An eligible lawyer-veteran is entitled to on-the-job training for a period of one year, and in addition thereto, for a period of time that he, or she, was in the service, but in no event for longer than four years. Most lawyer-veterans over twenty five, who had completed their legal education and been admitted, or who had practiced for a short while, would probably not desire more than a year or two of retraining.

The on-the-job training can be furnished by any employer on the approved list. In each state there is an appropriate state agency which passes upon the qualifications of the employers desiring to employ veterans for on-the-job training. In Colorado, the Governor's War Advisory Committee, Midland Savings Building, Denver 2, Colorado (telephone number MAin 6624) receives the applications from the employers. Some experienced lawyers have already made application to this committee for approval, and are employing lawyer-veterans.

The lawyer-veteran, desiring on-the-job training and subsistence allowance thereunder, applies to the Veterans' Administration for a certificate of eligibility and entitlement.

When an experienced lawyer, approved by the governor's committee, hires an eligible lawyer-veteran, the veteran will be paid a subsistence allowance of \$65 a month if without dependents, or \$90 a month if he has dependents. This subsistence is given so long as the combined salary, paid by the approved employer, and the subsistence, paid by the Veterans' Administration, does not exceed the minimum objective salary specified in the employer's

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†Summary of Remarks Before the Denver Bar Association, April 1, 1946.

\*Of the Denver Bar.

application. The actual amount of subsistence, which the trainee can receive, is based upon the specific schedule which the employer-trainer is required to furnish.

The Board of Governors of Colorado Bar Association has expressed its desire to aid the returning lawyer-veteran, and has approved of the on-the-job training program. It has also recommended to all local bar associations that they disseminate information in their communities in order that the benefits of the act will be operative.

Ralph L. Carr, president of the Denver Bar Association, appointed Charles A. Baer as chairman, and James F. Price, Dean of the Denver University Law School, John R. Turnquist, and Donald M. Leshner, as members of a committee to suggest standards to the Governor's War Advisory Committee for on-the-job training for Denver lawyer-veterans. The standards being established by the Denver Bar Association as to the minimum starting salary and minimum objective salary at the end of the training period, will apply to Denver, but not to other communities in Colorado.

The Denver committee, because of the variations between individual law offices and individual attorneys, did not, in their initial report, establish any standards as to the hours of employment, type of work to be required by the trainee, or the variety of law to be studied or practised.

It is obvious that it could be suggested to the employer-trainer that the training program might include a study of the procedure, and a witnessing of cases before, not only civil, probate, criminal, and police courts, but also before administrative bodies, such as the Colorado Public Utilities Commission, the Colorado Industrial Commission, the National Labor Relations Board, U. S. Tax Court, and, if possible, the Federal Power Commission and Interstate Commerce Commission.

This article prescind from any consideration of the details which are being worked out between the governor's committee and the local bar associations. The purpose of this article is to encourage experienced lawyers, as well as law firms, to give on-the-job training to lawyer-veterans.

### **Self-Employment Readjustment Benefits**

Any person qualified by reason of military or naval service, and discharged under other than dishonorable conditions, who resides in the United States and is self-employed for profit in any independent business or profession, may be eligible for a readjustment allowance. He is, if his net earnings are less than \$100 in the previous month, entitled to receive the difference (adjusted to the next highest multiple of \$1) between \$100 and his net earnings for such month.

Claims by such persons for allowances for months of self-employment must be filed at a local office or by mail on forms prescribed by the administrator, not later than the twentieth day of the month following that for which

the claim is made. A delay in filing bars a later filing unless serious cause is shown.

In order to receive the readjustment allowance, the self-employed lawyer-veteran files his claim at the nearest United States Employment Service office. On his first visit he must present to the clerk all of his discharge papers in order that his account may be set up. On the first visit, and all subsequent visits he must have with him a statement of his cash receipts and disbursements for the month in which he claims. The disbursements can only cover expense items; capital disbursements for equipment, etc., are not deductible.

In making application for the self-employment benefits, the lawyer-veteran does not have to obtain a certificate of eligibility and entitlement from the Veterans' Administration.

### **Conclusion**

The value of this article depends upon the cooperation of the members of the bar in bringing to the attention of the lawyer-veterans, and to other lawyers, the on-the-job training benefits and the self-employment readjustment benefits given in the Servicemen's Readjustment Act.

Therefore, it is requested that you, who have seen fit to read this article, will pass the word.

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## **Our Returning Lawyer-Veterans**

HOMER G. PRESTON, lt. col., Judge Advocate General's department, formerly in Chemical Warfare Service, served from June 1942 at Edgewood Arsenal, Maryland and at Rocky Mountain Arsenal, Denver. Col. Preston was county judge of Adams County at the time he entered service, and had held that position for ten years. Prior to that time he had been engaged in general practice for ten years. He is a graduate of Eureka College and Westminster Law School and was admitted to the bar of Colorado in 1922. He is not at present definitely located. He resides at Aurora.

DUDLEY W. STRICKLAND, JR., capt., Army Air Corps, served from May 1942 to May 1946 in the continental U. S. and Okinawa. He received citation from Brig. Gen. D. C. Swatland. He has returned to practice as a member of the firm of Strickland and Strickland, 425 Denver National Bank Bldg., Denver.

S. ROBERT HOUCHEMS, capt., Infantry, A. U. S., served from March 1942 to April 1946 in the U. S., England, France and Germany. In France and Germany he fought with the 45th Infantry Division until May 1, 1945, at which time he was assigned to the Judge Advocate General's department, 7th Army Headquarters, where he served until his return to the United