

candidates to be considered for appointment to the Veterans Rural Health Advisory Committee (VRHAC). The Committee advises the Secretary on ways to improve and enhance access to VA healthcare services for enrolled Veterans residing in rural areas and the identification of barriers to providing services. The Committee makes recommendations to the Secretary regarding such activities. Nominations of qualified candidates are being sought to fill upcoming vacancies on the Committee.

**Authority:** The Committee was established in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 2.

**DATES:** Nominations for membership on the Committee must be received no later than 5:00 p.m. EST on December 15, 2015.

**ADDRESSES:** Nominations should be submitted to the VA Office of Rural Health by email at [VRHAC@va.gov](mailto:VRHAC@va.gov) or United States Postal Service to VA Office of Rural Health, 810 Vermont Ave., Mail Code 10P1R, Washington, DC 20420.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Elmer D. Clark, VA Office of Rural Health, Department of Veterans Affairs, 810 Vermont Ave. NW., Mail Code 10P1R, Washington, DC 20420, Telephone (202) 632-8578. A copy of the Committee charter and list of the current membership can be obtained by contacting Mr. Clark or by accessing the Web site: <http://www.ruralhealth.va.gov/VRHAC/index.asp>.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The Committee was established by direction of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and operates under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act, as amended, 5 U.S.C. 2. The Committee consists of 12 appointed members and 4 appointed ex-officio members, appointed by the Secretary of VA. The Committee is tasked with examining ways to enhance health care services for Veterans in rural areas. The Committee works in collaboration with the VA Office of Rural Health (ORH) to discuss programs and policies that impact the provision of VA health care services to Veterans in rural areas. The Committee hosts a minimum of two committee meetings a year and provides a written summary of committee activities to the VA Secretary on an annual basis.

**Membership Criteria:** Nominee must understand how policy affects rural Veterans, their families, and the rural communities where they live and be familiar with services, provisions, and benefits issues as they pertain to rural

Veterans. The Committee currently meets in person twice a year and may meet at other times by teleconference as needed. Members serve an initial three-year term and the Secretary may reappoint members for additional terms of service. During the course of their terms, Committee members are expected to attend all meetings and to contribute their time and expertise to Committee projects. It is the potential candidate's responsibility to identify possible conflict(s) of interest that might affect their objectivity and recommendations submitted to the Secretary. If a potential conflict is identified, detailed information about the possible conflict such as employment, research grants and/or contracts must be provided to permit evaluation of possible conflicts of interest.

**Professional Qualifications:** Nominee must have experience working on Veterans' policy issues at the local, state, and regional level and have a thorough understanding of how the rural national policy arena operates.

**Requirements for Nomination Submission:** Nominations should be type written (one nomination per nominator). Nomination package should include: (1) A letter of nomination that clearly states the name and affiliation of the nominee, the basis for the nomination (*i.e.*, specific attributes which qualify the nominee for service in this capacity), and a statement from the nominee indicating a willingness to serve as a member of the Committee; (2) the nominee's contact information, including name, mailing address, telephone numbers, and email address; (3) the nominee's curriculum vitae, and (4) a summary of the nominee's experience and qualification relative to the professional qualifications criteria listed above. Self-nominations are welcome. Third-party nominations must indicate that the nominee has been contacted and is willing to serve.

**Membership Terms:** Individuals selected for appointment to the Committee shall be invited to serve a three-year term. Committee members will receive a stipend for attending Committee meetings, including per diem and reimbursement for travel expenses incurred.

The Department makes every effort to ensure that the membership of its Federal advisory committees is fairly balanced in terms of points of view represented and the committee's function. Every effort is made to ensure that a broad representation of geographic areas, males and females, racial and ethnic minority groups, and the disabled are given consideration for membership. Appointment to this

Committee shall be made without discrimination because of a person's race, color, religion, sex (including gender identity, transgender status, sexual orientation, and pregnancy), national origin, age, disability, or genetic information. An ethics review is conducted for each selected nominee.

Dated: July 28, 2015.

**Rebecca Schiller,**

*Committee Management Office.*

[FR Doc. 2015-18808 Filed 7-30-15; 8:45 am]

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## DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

### Loan Guaranty: Maximum Allowable Attorney Fees

**AGENCY:** Department of Veterans Affairs (VA).

**ACTION:** Notice.

**SUMMARY:** This notice provides information to participants in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Home Loan Guaranty program concerning the maximum attorney fees allowable in calculating the indebtedness used to determine the guaranty claim payable upon loan termination. The table in this notice contains the amounts the Secretary has determined to be reasonable and customary for all States, following an annual review of amounts allowed by other government-related home loan programs.

**DATES:** The new maximum attorney fees will be allowed for all loan terminations completed on or after August 31, 2015.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Mr. Andrew Trevaayne, Assistant Director for Loan and Property Management (261), Loan Guaranty Service, Department of Veterans Affairs, Washington, DC 20420, (202) 632-8795 (Not a toll-free number).

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** The VA Home Loan Guaranty program authorized by title 38, United States Code (U.S.C.), Chapter 37, offers a partial guaranty against loss to lenders who make home loans to veterans. VA regulations concerning the payment of loan guaranty claims are set forth at 38 CFR 36.4300, *et seq.* Computation of guaranty claims is addressed in 38 CFR 36.4324, which states that one part of the indebtedness upon which the guaranty percentage is applied is the allowable expenses/advances as described in 38 CFR 36.4314 (redesignated from 36.4814). Paragraph (b)(5)(ii) of section 34.4314 describes the procedures to be followed in

determining what constitutes the reasonable and customary fees for legal services in the termination of a loan.

The Secretary annually reviews allowances for legal fees in connection with the termination of single-family housing loans, including foreclosure, deed-in-lieu of foreclosure, and bankruptcy-related services, issued by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Fannie Mae, and Freddie Mac. Based on increases announced over the past year by these entities, the Secretary has deemed it necessary to publish in the **Federal Register** a table setting forth the revised amounts the Secretary now determines to be reasonable and customary. The table reflects the primary method for foreclosing in each state, either judicial or non-judicial, with the exception of those states where either judicial or non-judicial is acceptable. The use of a method not authorized in the table will require prior approval from VA. This table will be available throughout the

year at: <http://www.benefits.va.gov/homeloans/>.

The new VA table closely mirrors amounts and methods for foreclosure allowed by Fannie Mae. Unlike Fannie Mae, however, VA continues to prefer the judicial method of foreclosure in Hawaii. Although there have been changes to include the Hawaii non-judicial foreclosure statutes since our last publication, we believe that, with regard to VA-guaranteed loans, prudent lenders and attorneys in the community continue to prefer the protections provided by the judicial method of foreclosure.

Two other jurisdictions require special mention. Oregon foreclosure practice has continued to see changes since our last notice. VA understands that some cases may require judicial proceedings while others might be suitable for non-judicial actions. Rather than having to pre-approve each foreclosure, we indicate in this notice that both methods of foreclosure are acceptable in Oregon, with neither

method requiring prior approval from VA. In addition, the entry for the District of Columbia has been revised to reflect the acceptance of both judicial and non-judicial foreclosure proceedings. Although VA believes that non-judicial foreclosure remains an option in the District of Columbia, VA understands that judicial foreclosure is now more common and is also accepted by Fannie Mae.

There is no change to the amounts VA will allow for attorney fees for deeds-in-lieu of foreclosure or for bankruptcy relief. VA will continue to monitor these fees on an annual basis, as we are aware that other entities are conducting ongoing reviews of these fees.

The following table represents the Secretary's determination of the reasonable and customary cost of legal services for the preferred method of terminating VA loans in each jurisdiction under the provisions of 38 CFR 36.4314(b)(5)(ii). These amounts will be allowed for all loan terminations completed on or after August 31, 2015.

Jurisdiction	VA non-judicial foreclosure <sup>1 2</sup>	VA judicial foreclosure <sup>1 2</sup>	Deed-in-lieu of foreclosure
Alabama .....	\$1,325	N/A	\$350
Alaska .....	1,600	N/A	350
Arizona .....	1,350	N/A	350
Arkansas .....	1,400	N/A	350
California .....	1,350	N/A	350
Colorado .....	1,650	N/A	350
Connecticut .....	N/A	2,450	350
Delaware .....	N/A	1,800	350
District of Columbia .....	1,200	N/A	350
Florida .....	N/A	2,800	350
Georgia .....	1,325	N/A	350
Guam .....	1,600	N/A	350
Hawaii .....	N/A	2,950	350
Idaho .....	1,150	N/A	350
Illinois .....	N/A	2,300	350
Indiana .....	N/A	2,050	350
Iowa .....	850	1,880	350
Kansas .....	N/A	1,800	350
Kentucky .....	N/A	2,250	350
Louisiana .....	N/A	1,900	350
Maine .....	N/A	2,300	350
Maryland .....	2,400	N/A	350
Massachusetts .....	N/A	2,550	350
Michigan .....	1,425	N/A	350
Minnesota .....	1,450	N/A	350
Mississippi .....	1,200	N/A	350
Missouri .....	1,350	N/A	350
Montana .....	1,150	N/A	350
Nebraska .....	1,150	N/A	350
Nevada .....	1,525	N/A	350
New Hampshire .....	1,350	N/A	350
New Jersey .....	N/A	2,975	350
New Mexico .....	N/A	2,000	350
New York—Western Counties <sup>3</sup> .....	N/A	2,675	350
New York—Eastern Counties .....	N/A	3,475	350
North Carolina .....	1,575	N/A	350
North Dakota .....	N/A	1,750	350
Ohio .....	N/A	2,250	350
Oklahoma .....	N/A	2,000	350
Oregon .....	1,350	N/A	350
Pennsylvania .....	N/A	2,350	350
Puerto Rico .....	N/A	2,050	350

Jurisdiction	VA non-judicial foreclosure <sup>1 2</sup>	VA judicial foreclosure <sup>1 2</sup>	Deed-in-lieu of foreclosure
Rhode Island .....	1,725	N/A	350
South Carolina .....	N/A	1,650	350
South Dakota .....	N/A	2,200	350
Tennessee .....	1,200	N/A	350
Texas .....	1,325	N/A	350
Utah .....	1,350	N/A	350
Vermont .....	N/A	2,250	350
Virgin Islands .....	N/A	1,800	350
Virginia .....	1,350	N/A	350
Washington .....	1,350	N/A	350
West Virginia .....	1,150	N/A	350
Wisconsin .....	N/A	2,000	350
Wyoming .....	1,150	N/A	350

<sup>1</sup> When a foreclosure is stopped due to circumstances beyond the control of the holder or its attorney (including, but not limited to bankruptcy, VA-requested delay, property damage, hazardous conditions, condemnation, natural disaster, property seizure, or relief under the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act) and then restarted, VA will allow a \$350 restart fee in addition to the base foreclosure attorney fee. This fee recognizes the additional work required to resume the foreclosure action, while also accounting for the expectation that some work from the previous action may be utilized in starting the new action.

<sup>2</sup> VA will allow attorney fees of \$650 (Chapter 7) or \$850 (initial Chapter 13) for obtaining bankruptcy releases directly related to loan termination. For additional relief filed under either chapter, VA will allow an additional \$250.

<sup>3</sup> Western Counties of New York for VA are: Allegany, Cattaraugus, Chautauqua, Erie, Genesee, Livingston, Monroe, Niagara, Ontario, Orleans, Steuben, Wayne, Wyoming, and Yates. The remaining counties are in Eastern New York.

### Signing Authority

The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, or designee, approved this document and authorized the undersigned to sign and submit the document to the Office of the Federal Register for publication electronically as an official document of the Department of Veterans Affairs. Robert L. Nabors, II, Chief of Staff approved this document on July 24, 2015, for publication.

Dated: July 27, 2015.

**William F. Russo,**

*Acting Director, Office of Regulation Policy & Management, Office of the General Counsel, U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs.*

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### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### Special Medical Advisory Group; Notice of Meeting—Rescheduled

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under the Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App. 2 that the Special Medical Advisory Group (SMAG) meeting previously scheduled for August 25, 2015, from 9 a.m. to 11 a.m. Eastern Time, as published in the **Federal Register** on page 45019, has been rescheduled. The meeting is now scheduled for September 10, 2015, from 11 a.m.—1 p.m. Eastern Time. The meeting is open to the public. Call-in access is 1-800-767-1750; access code 07245. Members of the public may join the conference call to listen to the discussion; there will be no participation in the discussion by members of the public.

Participants will be asked to identify themselves to gain access to the meeting.

The purpose of the SMAG is to advise the Secretary of Veterans Affairs and the Under Secretary for Health on the care and treatment of disabled Veterans, and other matters pertinent to the Department's Veterans Health Administration (VHA).

The agenda for the August 25, 2015, meeting will include the review of the minutes and key points from the May 13, 2015, SMAG meeting and further discussion of the key elements of the VHA Blueprint for Excellence.

Although no time will be allocated for receiving oral presentations from the public, members of the public may submit written statements for review by the Committee to Barbara Hyduke, Department of Veterans Affairs, Office of Patient Care Services (10P4), Veterans Health Administration, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC 20420, or by email at [barbara.hyduke@va.gov](mailto:barbara.hyduke@va.gov).

If you plan to listen to the meeting, please call in at least 15 minutes the start of the meeting; callers will not be given access after 9:00 a.m. Any member of the public wishing to attend the meeting or seeking additional information should contact Ms. Hyduke at (202) 461-7800 or by the email address noted above.

Dated: July 28, 2015.

**Rebecca Schiller,**

*Advisory Committee Management Officer.*

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### DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

#### Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses; Notice of Meeting

The Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) gives notice under Public Law 92-463 Federal Advisory Committee Act, 5 U.S.C. App 2, that the Research Advisory Committee on Gulf War Veterans' Illnesses will meet on September 29, 2015, in Washington, DC. The meeting will be held in Room 230, 810 Vermont Avenue NW., Washington, DC from 9:00 a.m. until 5:30 p.m. All sessions will be open to the public, and for interested parties who cannot attend in person, there is a toll-free telephone number (800-767-1750; access code 56978#).

The purpose of the Committee is to provide advice and make recommendations to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs on proposed research studies, research plans, and research strategies relating to the health consequences of military service in the Southwest Asia theater of operations during the Gulf War in 1990-1991.

The Committee will review VA program activities related to Gulf War Veterans' illnesses, and updates on relevant scientific research published since the last Committee meeting. Presentations will include updates on the VA and Department of Defense Gulf War research programs, along with research presentations describing neurological problems in Gulf War Veterans. There will also be a discussion of Committee business and activities.