



Dr. Robert Townsend

Valor Consulting, PLLC

MEDICAL • LEGAL • NEXUS

Medical Nexus Opinions for Veterans

● 395 Shamrock Ct., Clare, MI 48617 ● (989) 797-4200 ● DrRTownsend@msn.com

CURRICULUM VITAE

VA Disability Evaluation and Medical-Legal Consulting

NPI 1376537316 | Updated August 2026

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

Internal Medicine physician, former U.S. Army medic and Medical Service Corps officer, former independent contract VA Compensation and Pension examiner, and owner of Valor Consulting, PLLC. More than 25 years of clinical experience support a focused practice in comprehensive VA disability evaluation, medical-record analysis, nexus review, disability-severity assessment, and employability opinions.

Since 2022, Dr. Townsend has performed more than 100 VA disability evaluations and comprehensive record reviews annually for a major Veterans disability law firm. His consulting work combines extensive electronic review of the entire available VA claims and medical file, outside medical records, service records, Veteran and lay statements, direct Zoom or telephone interviews, and an iterative second review designed to strengthen the final medical analysis.

Consulting focus: medically reasoned, source-traceable opinions that answer the attorney's questions, identify the strongest supportable theory, explain functional and occupational impact, and provide comprehensive recommendations concerning additional records, testing, specialist evaluation, or lay evidence that could strengthen the claim.

VALOR CONSULTING, PLLC

Owner and Physician Medical Consultant

2022-Present

- Performs more than 100 VA disability evaluations and comprehensive medical-record reviews each year for a major Veterans disability law firm.
- Conducts extensive computer-based review of the Veteran's complete available VA claims and medical file, including service treatment and personnel records, VA and private treatment records, imaging, diagnostic testing, specialist reports, prior C&P; examinations, DBQs, rating decisions, appeal materials, and attorney requests.
- Reviews and integrates Veteran statements and competent lay observations from spouses, family members, fellow service members, caregivers, and other witnesses when relevant to onset, continuity, symptom severity, treatment burden, functional loss, and occupational impairment.
- Conducts detailed interviews by Zoom and telephone to clarify military duties, injuries, exposures, symptom progression, treatment, flare behavior, daily limitations, and work impact that may not be fully captured in the documentary record.
- Prepares independent medical nexus opinions, secondary-causation and permanent-aggravation analyses, disability-rating assessments, combined functional evaluations, and employability or TDIU-related opinions.
- Works directly with attorneys and legal staff to convert complex, high-volume medical records into organized, understandable, and legally useful physician reports.

SERVICE • INTEGRITY • ADVOCACY

VA DISABILITY EVALUATION METHODOLOGY

The review is intentionally comprehensive and iterative. It is designed to move beyond a one-pass summary of the file and to test the medical record for the strongest supportable relationship among military service, established service-connected disabilities, newly claimed conditions, comorbid disease, functional impairment, and employability.

1. Define the assignment. Identify every condition, requested theory, rating issue, employability question, and material deadline in the attorney request.
2. Complete electronic file review. Review the entire available VA claims and medical file and relevant outside records, prioritizing original clinical sources over summaries and duplicate documents.
3. Build the longitudinal chronology. Trace service duties and events, onset, progression, remissions, recurrences, testing, treatment, medication burden, functional loss, and current impairment.
4. Integrate Veteran and lay evidence. Evaluate credible reports of observable symptoms, continuity, treatment burden, altered function, missed activities, and occupational limitations in the context of the longitudinal record.
5. Conduct the Veteran interview. Use Zoom or telephone discussion to resolve ambiguities, clarify exposures and injuries, establish the practical effects of the conditions, and obtain information not fully documented in the record.
6. Develop the preliminary opinion outline. Identify the strongest direct, secondary, cumulative, exposure-related, or aggravation theory; distinguish favorable and unfavorable evidence; and identify unanswered medical questions.
7. Return to the complete record. After the basic outline is developed, perform a focused second review to locate additional supporting evidence, verify dates and findings, address contrary evidence, and strengthen the factual and medical foundation of the opinion.
8. Analyze comorbidity and condition interaction. Look for conditions that cause, aggravate, mimic, or worsen the primary disability; evaluate medication effects, altered biomechanics, chronic pain, sleep disruption, reduced activity, and other supported mechanisms.
9. Test links to established service-connected disabilities. Determine whether a newly claimed condition is medically related to, caused by, or permanently aggravated by a condition for which service connection has already been granted.
10. Finalize integrated recommendations. Provide a clear medical conclusion, explain the causal mechanism and functional consequences, and identify additional records, testing, specialist evaluation, or lay evidence that could materially improve diagnosis, causation, rating precision, or employability analysis.

TYPICAL CONSULTING WORK PRODUCT

- Independent medical nexus opinions
- Direct service-connection analysis
- Secondary causation analysis
- Permanent aggravation analysis
- Comorbidity and condition-interaction review
- Current disability and functional assessment
- Disability-rating recommendations
- Physical and sedentary work-impact analysis
- Employability and TDIU-related opinions
- Contrary-evidence and competing-cause review
- Evidence-gap identification
- Comprehensive claim-development recommendations

Review standard: The final opinion is balanced but decisive. Material unfavorable evidence and competing causes are disclosed and weighed rather than ignored, while the strongest medically supportable interpretation is stated in clear physician language.

PRIOR VA DISABILITY EXAMINATION EXPERIENCE

Department of Veterans Affairs - Alaska

Independent Contract VA Examiner and Locums Physician | VA CBOC and Compensation and Pension Program

2009-2010

- Performed VA Compensation and Pension examinations as an independent physician contractor; did not serve as a VA employee.
- Reviewed service treatment records and longitudinal medical evidence and addressed diagnosis, causation, aggravation, functional impairment, disability severity, and employability.
- Provided clinical services within an Alaska VA Community-Based Outpatient Clinic and evaluated Veterans with acute, chronic, and complex medical conditions.

MILITARY MEDICAL SERVICE

United States Army Reserve

- Enlisted Army Medic, E-4, 1984-1987: firsthand experience with military medical operations, service culture, field responsibilities, and the physical demands placed on service members.
- Medical Service Corps Officer, commissioned 1987: commissioned as a Second Lieutenant through Michigan State University Army ROTC and served in a military medical leadership role.

This combination of enlisted medical service, commissioned military leadership, physician practice, and direct VA examination experience provides a practical understanding of both military service and the medical issues presented in Veterans disability claims.

CLINICAL AND EXECUTIVE EXPERIENCE

Denali Healthcare | President

2010-2022

Directed outpatient healthcare operations in Gaylord, Michigan, and additional locations; provided clinical, administrative, personnel, and organizational leadership.

General Internal Medicine | Internal Medicine Physician

1996-2010

Practiced inpatient, outpatient, and critical care medicine and managed patients with complex acute and chronic medical conditions.

Recovery and Addiction Medicine | Physician

More than 15 years of experience

Provided medication-assisted treatment, longitudinal medical management, and care of coexisting chronic medical conditions.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Internal Medicine Residency	Doctors Hospital, Columbus, Ohio - 1996
Rotating Osteopathic Internship	Universal Medical Center, Plantation, Florida - 1993
Doctor of Osteopathic Medicine	Nova Southeastern University College of Osteopathic Medicine - 1992
Biological Sciences / Military Science	Michigan State University - 1987
Paramedic Training	Davenport Center for the Study of EMS - 1984

ADDITIONAL LEADERSHIP AND TEACHING

Civil Air Patrol: Medical Officer; promoted to Major in 2019; former Squadron Commander; national-level instructor; recipient of the National Commander's Commendation Award; graduate of National Safety Officer College and Air Force Squadron Officer School. Teaching: Former paramedic instructor and experienced developer of public educational material.

CORE PROFESSIONAL EXPERTISE

- VA disability evaluations
- Comprehensive electronic claims-file review
- Independent medical nexus opinions
- Direct and secondary service connection
- Permanent aggravation analysis
- Veteran and lay-statement analysis
- Disability-rating assessment
- Functional and occupational analysis
- Employability and TDIU review
- Comorbidity and causal-chain analysis
- Evidence-gap identification
- Attorney collaboration and consulting

Professional references and letters of recommendation are available upon request.