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February 28, 2008



Law students help veterans in need

BY R. NORMAN MOODY
FLORIDA TODAY

MERRITT ISLAND — Law student Andrew Calcutt and other students and attorneys faced a waiting line of veterans seeking help Thursday morning in claiming their federal benefits, but he felt good about the service he was providing.

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Attorneys and law students with the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law Mobile Law Office made a one-day stop at the Brevard Veterans Memorial Center to help veterans with free legal service in trying to secure their federal benefits.

It's a daunting task but it feels good to get out a help people in need," he said. "There are a lot of emotions hearing some of these stories."

The group was interviewing veterans who said they had tried for years to claim their benefits, to have it increased or simply to get treatment for a service related injury or illness.



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Project Salute. Law student Brad Erickson of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law works with Don Scott of Cape Canaveral. "Project Salute" offers free consultations to help them obtain pension or disability benefits. Tim Shortt, FLORIDA TODAY

Called Project Salute, the nationwide tour was in Merritt Island following its first stops in Texas. The Law Clinic started last year in Michigan as a statewide tour, then moved nationwide in the last few weeks.

Mark Gordon, dean and professor of law at University of Detroit Mercy, said that just a few weeks into the tour, he has found that there is a great need for the services they are providing.

"Within two weeks we had heard from 300 veterans," he said.

For more information about Project Salute, see web site <http://www.law.udmercy.edu/>

R. Norman Moody

Read more about this story in tomorrow's FLORIDA TODAY.

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