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**WALDEN MACHT & HARAN JOINS VETERAN ADVOCATES IN
SUPPORTING LEGAL AID FOR VETERANS AMID COVID-19
PANDEMIC, TAKING 13TH ANNUAL RIDE FOR OUR VETS VIRTUAL**

WEST HAVEN, CT (May 11, 2020) Cyclists, runners, outside enthusiasts, and veteran supporters from around the country aim to raise \$250,000 to support veterans affected by the COVID-19 pandemic by joining **The Ride for Our Vets: Virtually Together** (The Ride) on Saturday, June 13, 2020.

All proceeds from this virtual charity event benefit the [Connecticut Veterans Legal Center \(CVLC\)](#), which works in collaboration with frontline medical and social service providers to help veterans recovering from homelessness and mental illness overcome legal barriers to housing, healthcare, and income. Funds raised will be used to support programs in CT and CVLC's national effort to help veterans gain access to VA healthcare.

[Walden Macht & Haran LLP](#) (WMH) is sponsoring The Ride for a second consecutive year, holding a 4 Star Sponsorship level. Their support has helped The Ride grow, earning increased support in the cycling community. WMH is also an important CVLC pro bono partner, representing veteran clients in critical cases such as military discharge upgrades.

Attorney Jeff Udell, partner at WMH, has been a dedicated rider since 2014. He rides both to serve CVLC's mission and to honor the memory of his father, CVLC Co-Founder Howard Udell. Jeff has supported CVLC by volunteering his time to represent veterans in pro bono cases and guiding the organization's growth as a member of the CVLC Board of Directors. He brings new people to join his team every year.

"Most significantly, taking on the challenge of The Ride, is a small sacrifice to improve the lives of veterans," said Jeff, "who have already made a large sacrifice for all of us."

All funds raised through the Ride for Our Vets: Virtually Together provide immediate legal assistance for veterans. CVLC clients are in the most high-risk category for COVID-19 and need help now, more

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than ever, accessing healthcare, staying housed, and gaining access to income benefits. CVLC has recently seen a surge of veterans asking for legal assistance related to COVID-19. Five out of the ten - top unmet needs of homeless veterans are legal in nature. This event is critical to addressing those needs in Connecticut.

As unemployment skyrockets, veterans are losing employer-based healthcare and VA eligible veterans are being turned away at the door. CVLC is a national leader in helping veterans gain access to VA healthcare and other veteran benefits. For every dollar raised, CVLC generates \$15 in tangible benefits for their veteran clients.

“In just a few short weeks, we have seen the strength of our medical-legal partnership rise to the challenges created by the COVID-19 pandemic,” said Liam Brennan, CVLC Executive Director. “There has never been a greater need for ensuring veterans have access to health care, are able to secure adequate income, and don't become homeless. These social determinants of health that are clearly now life or death for so many of CVLC clients and the surge of new clients we are planning to serve.”

Support veterans by joining as a virtual rider! Every year, the Ride attracts a mix of veterans, corporate teams, local cycling clubs, cyclists, and individual veteran supporters who want to help our veterans in need. With this new virtual experience, the Ride promotes keeping healthy, staying connected, and helping others by joining a virtual community who have socially distant activities, friendly team competitions, and a virtual community. Each person can set a personal challenge to ride, run, walk, or hike on June 13th, 2020 with hundreds of other participants across America. Others can choose to do a personal challenge over a period of time.

Participants are encouraged to raise a minimum of \$200, but the average rider raises over \$600. With training and fundraising support, some participants even raise thousands of dollars! Registration is free before May 1st, 2020. Please visit www.rideforourvets.org if you are interested in learning more, participating, or donating to The Ride for Our Vets: Virtually Together!

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About CVLC

Connecticut Veterans Legal Center (CVLC) helps veterans recovering from homelessness and mental illness overcome legal barriers to housing, healthcare, and income. Formed in 2009, CVLC was the first medical-legal partnership (“MLP”) to integrate legal services on-site at VA mental health facilities. In addition to in-house legal staff, hundreds of volunteer attorneys across Connecticut work with CVLC to help veterans resolve legal issues that destabilize their housing, employability, disability income, transportation, and family relationships.

www.CTVeteransLegal.org

About The Ride For Our Vets

Established in 2012, The Ride For Our Vets is the only charity ride to benefit veterans in the state of Connecticut through the Connecticut Veterans Legal Center (CVLC).

<https://ctveteranslegal.org/the-ride-2020/>