



## **Department of Veterans Affairs**

### **Senior Executive Biography**

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#### **John Townsend, OD, FAAO**

##### **Director, Optometric Service Office of Specialty Care Services**

Since appointed as Director, Optometric Service for the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA), Dr. Townsend has greatly contributed to the VA mission to improve access to and quality of optometric primary eye care, and low vision and traumatic brain injury (TBI) vision rehabilitation services for our Nation's Veterans. He is responsible for leading VA's nationwide optometry programs and in that role has greatly contributed to VA strategic planning and policy development.



Prior to becoming Director, Optometric Service, he had a distinguished career as a clinical educator and scholar at the West Los Angeles VA Healthcare System where he taught optometry residents and student externs. He was a Professor with Tenure at the Southern California College of Optometry and has published a textbook on visual fields, several chapters in textbooks as well as over forty articles in peer-reviewed journals. He co-developed the Optometric Grand Rounds Clinical Conference and was a requested lecturer at local, regional, national, and international conferences. For the numerous contributions to the optometric profession, Dr. Townsend was inducted as a Distinguished Practitioner, National Academy of Practice in Optometry within the National Academies of Practice. He is Advanced Competence in Medical Optometry (ACMO) certified, and has Honorary, American Board of Certification in Medical Optometry (ABCMO) certification.

In select highlights regarding service to the optometric profession, Dr. Townsend served as Reviewer, *Making Eye Health a Population Health Imperative: Vision for Tomorrow*, National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine Report, 2016; Chair, Clinical Guidelines Coordinating Committee for the American Optometric Association; Representative to the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) Committee Z80 for Ophthalmic Standards; Affiliate Member of the Association of Schools and Colleges of Optometry as well as Planning Committee Member, National Eye Health Education Program, National Eye Institute, National Institutes of Health, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. He has served on the Editorial Boards of numerous prestigious professional journals including *Optometry* of the American Optometric Association, the *VA Journal of Rehabilitation Research and Development*, and the American Academy of Optometry, *Optometry and Vision Science*.

#### **CAREER CHRONOLOGY:**

2000 – Present	Director, Optometric Service for the Department of Veterans Affairs
1996 – 2000	Chief, Optometry, VA Greater Los Angeles Healthcare System, Santa Barbara Ambulatory Care Center, Santa Barbara, California
1991 – 1996	Chief, Optometry Service, West Los Angeles VA Medical Center

#### **EDUCATION:**

1980	Residency in Hospital-based Optometry, Kansas City VA Medical Center
1979	O.D., University of Houston, College of Optometry (Summa Cum Laude)
1975	B.S., University of Florida (with Honors)