

**Delivering Legal Services To Active-Duty Servicemembers And Their Families:  
Resources And Opportunities For Legal Aid And Pro Bono Attorneys**

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**Brief Description:**

There is a growing movement in legal services and pro bono communities to find effective ways to deliver civil legal assistance to active-duty servicemembers and their families. This session will focus on the substantive legal issues and problems encountered by servicemembers, opportunities for legal aid and pro bono attorneys to serve this eligible client population, and the resources available to support such work. Panelists will discuss the role and scope of services provided by military legal assistance, local and state-based efforts to deliver legal help to service members, and the ABA's national pro bono project serving military personnel.

**Topical Outline:**

**I. Introduction**

1. Overview of the presentation
2. Introduction of speakers

**II. Military Legal Assistance**

1. Overview
  - a. History/Inception of Legal Assistance Program
  - b. Authority Governing Military Legal Assistance
  - c. Purpose of Military Legal Assistance Program
  - d. Legal Assistance Offices/Providers
  - e. Types of Services Offered
  - f. Personnel
  - g. Persons Eligible to Receive Legal Assistance
  - h. Priority Scheme in Provision of Services

2. Legal Assistance Services
  - a. Preventative / Pre-deployment
  - b. SCRA
  - c. Wills and Health Care Documents
  - d. Domestic Relations
  - e. POAs
  - f. Notarial Services
  - g. LL/T
  - h. Consumer law
  - i. VITA
  - j. ELAP
3. Limitations on Scope of Legal Assistance Services
  - a. Business Matters
  - b. Military Justice
  - c. Certain Claims Assistance
  - d. Matters of Official Government Interest
  - e. Complex Estate Planning
4. Legal Assistance Points of Contact
  - a. Navy
  - b. Marine Corps
  - c. Coast Guard

### **III. Developing a Statewide Approach for Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Services**

1. Formative Stages
  - a. Genesis of project
  - b. Stakeholders
  - c. Bar membership survey
  - d. Funding/Bar support
2. Structure
  - a. Bar Committee Advisory Board
    - i. Lawyer Members
    - ii. Legal Services Programs (LSPs)
    - iii. Base Legal Services Programs
  - b. State Bar Pro Bono Project Committee staffing
  - c. Referral program staffing
  - d. Program Flow Chart

- e. Funding scenario
- f. Sustainability
- 3. Target client base
  - a. Eligibility guidelines
  - b. Veterans
  - c. Servicemembers
- 4. Services
  - a. Screening process
  - b. Paid referrals
  - c. Pro bono referrals
- 5. Volunteer engagement
  - a. Recruitment
  - b. Messaging
  - c. Support and training of volunteers
- 6. Role of technology
  - a. Website resources
  - b. Webinar series
  - c. Listserv
  - d. Surveys/Evaluation

#### **IV. The ABA Military Pro Bono Project**

- 1. Concept and Development
  - a. Need for pro bono help for active-duty servicemembers
  - b. Involvement of ABA LAMP and Section of Litigation
  - c. Identifying technology needs and partners
  - d. Project development and launch
- 2. Intake and Referral Process
  - a. Eligibility criteria – substantive and financial
  - b. Referrals originate with military legal assistance attorneys
  - c. Review by supervising military attorney
  - d. Review and placement by project director
- 3. Website Design and Use
  - a. Public site on Pro Bono Net template
  - b. Referral system built by Delaware.net

- c. Overview of referral process using site
- 4. Accomplishments and Challenges
  - a. Referral numbers
  - b. Geographic and substantive needs
- 5. Working with Pro Bono and Legal Aid
  - a. How the MPBP can be a resource to you
  - b. Successful collaborations
  - c. Benefits of collaboration

## **V. Questions**

### **Notes:**

### **Bibliography & Website Links:**

1. ABA Military Pro Bono Project, <http://www.militaryprobono.org>
2. GeorgiaAdvocates.org, [www.GeorgiaAdvocates.org/GOJC](http://www.GeorgiaAdvocates.org/GOJC)
3. Compilation of Veterans and Servicemembers Web Resources, <http://del.icio.us/probonoga> (Search on tags, “MilitaryProBono” and “VeteransLaw”)