WSBA**Sections**

Annual Report 2012- 2013

(October 1, 2012 – September 30, 2013)

Due: September 30, 2012

Section: **WSBA Legal Assistance to Military Personnel (LAMP) Section**
Submitted by: **Stephen H. Carpenter, Jr.**
Section position: **WSBA Section Chair**
Date submitted: **October 7, 2013**

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1. **Section highlights and accomplishments in 2012-2013.**

- Sponsored the Admission to Practice Rules [APR 8(g)] CLE for active duty JAG Attorneys who are specially admitted to the Bar to assist military personnel in local state courts. Held aboard Joint Base Lewis-McChord (JBLM), February 21-22, 2013.
- Coordinated with the multiple WSBA Sections to provide the APR 8(g) training.
- Certified APR 8(g) JAGs sworn in by the **Washington State Supreme Court, *en banc;*** LAMP Historian Adam Torem presided over the special ceremony. **Colonel William Martin**, the Staff Judge Advocate (SJA) for I Corps, JBLM, likewise attended the swearing-in ceremony.
- Sponsored four mini-CLEs at Quarterly Meetings one of which featured **Brigadier General (ret.) Jack Nevin**, JAGC, USA (Ret.), **The Honorable Michael Finkle**, King County Veteran's Court, **Travis Alley**, Veterans Outreach Specialist, Washington State Attorney General's Office and **Randy Turner**, Veterans Justice Outreach Coordinator in Pierce County.
- Continued to work with the ABA and other private organizations (*Microsoft*) on initiatives in support of our veterans, military members, and families.
- Sharon Powell becomes Vice-Chair. Chair-elect Captain Alex Straub will return from a military tour in Afghanistan in mid-November 2013.
- LAMP members meet with several Case Managers/Advocates at Madigan Hospital to include: Suzanne Maloney (AW2 Advocate WTU JBLM), Lisa Allen (OEF/OIF/OND Transition PT Advocate), and Jeremy Horsley (MedCOM MAMC).
- LAMP members attended and manned a table at the WSBA Open Sections Night in January.
- LAMP Executive Team participated in meetings with the Seattle University Veteran Law Student Association, and attended the Veteran's Appreciation Night at Seattle University.
- Contributed to and endorsed the NW Justice Project's Equal Justice Works-AmeriCorps Veterans Fellowship.
- FY 2013 Budget $657.50 surplus; purchased LAMP Section Banner

2. **Section priorities, including new goals, for upcoming membership year 2011-2012.**

- **Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson** to tentatively attend next LAMP Quarterly Meeting, Washington State Attorney General Bob Ferguson previously announced a new web-based "*Military and Veterans Legal Resource Guide*" to help veterans, military personnel and their families understand their legal rights and protections.
- Continued outreach to active duty JAG offices throughout Washington.
- Offer mini-CLEs quarterly, perhaps one in Eastern or Southern Washington.
- Increase section membership to 115 members along with outreach to interested Bar members. Draw on *non-lawyer* population.

- Continue partnerships with community and legal organizations, both state and national.

3. **Current and new benefits for section membership.**
   - Members-only list serve, website, newsletter, publications, etc.
   - New member outreach, including young lawyers, new admitted and law students

4. **Section community involvement and special financial designations.**
   - Ability to provide *pro bono* assistance to military members and their families needing help beyond that available through local installation Legal Assistance programs. Coordinate with Davis Wright Tremaine, Seattle, WA.
   - Continued Liaison with the Northwest Justice Project.
   - Coordinated programming with Attorneys Assisting Citizen – Soldiers & Families (AACF).
   - Participation with The Center for Children & Youth Justice's Military Youth Roundtable.

5. **Section activities supporting the WSBA Guiding Principles for 2011-2013 which are to advance and promote:**
   - Supporting the Veterans Court of Thurston County and the Seattle Veterans Treatment Court to ensure access to justice for U.S. Veterans.
   - Focus on returning U.S. military war veterans – and supporting their re-integration into society by providing pro-bono assistance and supporting their effort for access VA benefits.
   - Supporting an initiative by Microsoft Corporation to improve access to the legal profession by U.S. military veterans.

6. **Collaboration/partnerships with other sections, bar-affiliated groups, and/or groups in the legal community.**
   - Working closely with other WSBA Bar Sections for all CLE training, please see the section highlights above.
   - Currently, two members of the WSBA LAMP are formerly assigned as WSBA Liaisons to the ABA LAMP to ensure close coordination of military legal assistance issues at the national level.
   - Working with specialty bars to ensure support and visibility of legal assistance issue for military members, veterans, and their families.

7. **Section relationship with WSBA staff and the Board of Governors.**
   - The WSBA Leadership has actively supported the WSBA LAMP. This is perhaps best exemplified by the continued decision to allow the LAMP Section to have non-lawyers as non-voting members of the LAMP Section. This is significant: current U.S. Laws limit the ability of Veterans to access lawyers for assistance. Other organization such as the Disabled American Veterans (DAV), the Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW), and the American Legion provide assistance at hearings (at no cost) to Veterans. Having these representatives as non-voting members of our Section allows them access to current legal issues (and improves communications and identification of legal issues/concerns for our veterans).
   - The WSBA LAMP Section has been provided optimum support by the WSBA leadership and staff.
   - Our BOG Liaison has been engaged with all key issues addressed by the LAMP.

8. **Additional information, comments and suggestions.**
   - The WSBA leadership and administrative staff continue to provide optimum support for LAMP efforts to provide legal assistance to our returning military personnel, veterans, and families impacted by the long war overseas.