WSBA**Sections**

Annual Report 2011- 2012

(October 1, 2011 – September 30, 2012)

Due: September 30, 2012

Section: **WSBA Legal Assistance to Military Personnel (LAMP) Section**
Submitted by: **Daniel C. Russ**
Section position: **WSBA Section Chair**
Date submitted: **October 31, 2012**

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1. **Section highlights and accomplishments in 2011-2012.**

- Law School Liaison position established. To improved coordination with the Law Schools in Washington State, established the WSBA LAMP Law School Liaison position.
- Sponsored the APR 8(g) CLE for JAG Attorneys who are specially admitted to the Bar to assist military personnel in local courts. Held at the Bangor Nuclear Submarine Facility, Naval Base Kitsap, January 2012.
- Coordinated with the multiple WSBA Sections to provide the APR 8(g) training, including the Sexual Orientation and Gender Identification Legal Issues (SOGILI) Section who provided training related to the repeal of "Don't ask, don't tell," (DADT), *see* Pub.L. 103-160 (10 U.S.C. Section 654). This was the first documented training by a SOGILI group (related to the repeal of DADT) to military legal personnel on a U.S. military installation.
- Coordinated with Seattle University School of Law School for oral arguments by the U.S. Air Force Court of Criminal Appeals, held at Seattle University.
- Coordinated with University of Washington School of Law School for oral arguments by the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Armed Forced, held at the University of Washington.
- Sponsored four mini-CLEs at Quarterly Meetings one of which featured Vice Admiral Bruce MacDonald, JAGC, USN (Ret.), now the Convening Authority for Military Tribunals.
- Held a Military Youth Roundtable hosted with the American Bar Association, Center for Children & Youth Justice, and the WSBA LAMP Section. The WSBA hosted the event and retired Supreme Court Justice Bobbe Bridge was the facilitator.
- Contributed to and endorsed the NW Justice Project's Equal Justice Works-AmeriCorps Veterans Fellowship.
- Continued to work with the ABA and other organizations on initiatives in support of our veterans, military members, and families. Supported the ABA and First Lady Michelle Obama effort for "provisional licenses" by spouses of military members stationed in Washington state (allows a member of another state bar to practice in Washington state – while the spouse is on active duty). This request is under consideration by the WSBA.

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

- Continued outreach to active duty JAG offices throughout Washington.
- Offer mini-CLEs quarterly, perhaps one in Eastern or Southern Washington.
- Increase section membership to 120 members along with outreach to interested Bar members.
- 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.
   - 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 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.

Note: Annual Reports will be shared with the WSBA Executive Director and posted on your section's webpage*. We encourage you to share the Annual Report with your BOG liaison and the section membership.

Due date: September 30, 2012

Email to: Melina Lambuth, WSBA Sections Administrative Assistant, melinal@wsba.org

*does not apply to section's with websites outside of the WSBA administration.

Thank You!