



With over 600,000 U.S. Military veterans in Washington, many veterans face a distinct legal barrier that hinders reintegration into civilian life.

The WSBA Call to Duty Initiative's goal is to train legal professionals in meeting the needs of the men and women who served our country. Volunteers learn about opportunities to serve Washington veterans, take the Call to Duty Pledge and/or participate in a Day of Service.

WSBA CALL TO DUTY READYING OUR CORPS TO SERVE WASHINGTON VETERANS

CALL TO DUTY PLEDGE

Since the program launched in 2013, over 300 legal professionals have taken the Pledge and served veterans in one or more of the following ways:

- Use legal skills to advise a nonprofit organization that serves veterans
- Mentor those who take pro bono cases that served a veteran
- Teach at a Continuing Legal Education course on veterans legal issues
- Volunteer for one of the Call to Duty's Days of Service or with the WA Vets Will Clinic
- Take a low-fee veterans' case through the WSBA Moderate Means Program
- Take a pro bono case from an organization who service veterans
- Become certified to take a VA benefits case

DAYS OF SERVICE

Days of Service include a free Family Law CLE and a legal clinic that assists Veterans with their family law case. The four Days of Service held since May 2014 have:

- Assisted approximately 90 veterans with their parenting plan or child support matters
- Included 200 attorneys, paralegals, LLLTs and other legal professionals who provided legal assistance to veterans

CLIENT IMPACT



Day of Service Volunteers reported positive experiences, with **73%** reporting that they felt they had made a positive impact for their client, and **85%** responding they would volunteer again.

Before-and-after legal clinic surveys were conducted to evaluate a client's confidence with navigating his/her legal issue. In all cases, clients reported a marked increase in their confidence level.

Each client sees two legal professionals, including one attorney. This allows for the client to get as much assistance as they can in a 1-2 hour appointment. With the help of these legal professionals, clients are able to move forward with their cases in a positive way.



Here are just two examples of how veterans were helped:

1 Client was divorced in 1997 and is being medically separated in December 2014 and will lose 1/3 his income. He wanted to get child support modified. The attorneys assisted the client in locating the information for the child support modification, and completed the paperwork for the client to file.

2 Client was never married and has one son, age 5. Father lives in Washington, child lives in Guam, soon moving to Tennessee. The mother requested that the father sign his parental rights away because her new fiancé wants to adopt the child. After meeting with volunteers and learning what his options were, the client was able to talk with the mother and they agreed to establish a parenting plan together so that the father can continue to have a relationship with the child as he grows.



Advancing WSBA's Vision of a Just Washington

The WSBA Call to Duty is made possible by charitable gifts to the Washington State Bar Foundation. Donations provide funding for training, community events, program outreach, and staffing. Please support the WSBA's veterans initiative by making a tax-deductible gift at wsba.org/foundation or foundation@wsba.org.