

# WASHINGTON STATE B A R A S S O C I A T I O N

## SECTION ANNUAL REPORT – 2019

*Deadline: Friday, December 6, 2019*

*Email Annual Report to: [sections@wsba.org](mailto:sections@wsba.org)*

<b>Name of the Section:</b>	<i>Legal Assistance to Military Personnel</i>	
<b>Chair:</b>	<i>Eric McDonald</i>	
<b>Section Information:</b>  <i>*To be completed by WSBA*</i>	Membership Size: <i>(As of December 15, 2019)</i>	85
	Staff Lead:	Patrick Mead
	BOG Liaison:	Hunter Abell
	FY19 revenue (\$): <i>As of September 30, 2019</i>	\$3,127.59
	FY19 direct expenses (\$): <i>(As of September 30, 2019; does not include the Per-Member-Charge)</i>	\$82.30
<b>Purpose:</b>	<p>To benefit members of the Washington State Bar Association (WSBA) and the general public by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establishing liaisons between the WSBA, the Armed Forces of the United States, and federal, state and local government agencies involved in military and veteran affairs.</li> <li>• Encouraging continuing legal education to assist legal representation of and advocacy for military personnel, veterans and their dependents within Washington State.</li> <li>• Providing information on matters affecting military licensed legal professionals, both active duty and reserve.</li> <li>• Promoting WSBA objectives with respect to military affairs by serving the needs of the members and veterans of the Armed Forces of the United States and their dependents.</li> </ul>	

<p><b>2019 Accomplishments and Work in Progress:</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Organized, hosted, and participated in mini-CLE training events for military and civilian attorneys.</li> <li>Provided guidance to military and civilian attorneys seeking information on federal and state laws impacting servicemembers members, veterans, and their families.</li> <li>As advisory member of the AGO’s Military &amp; Veteran Legal Assistance Committee, participated in its audit meeting as well as providing guidance on military and veteran legal challenges and potential venues for receiving assistance such as future AGO’ sponsored CLE.</li> <li>Reviewed state legislative bills in coordination with the WSBA, on issues relating to military members, dependents, Washington National Guard members, and veterans.</li> <li>Met with the AGO’s Military and Veteran Legal Assistance Division/Department Head to formulate plan for 2020 CLE presentations to training cadre of Pro-Bono attorneys.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>Please quantify your section’s current member benefits:</b></p> <p><i>For example:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>\$3000 Scholarships, donations, grants awarded;</li> <li>4 mini-CLEs produced</li> </ul>	<p><b>Quantity</b></p>	<p><b>Member Benefit</b></p>
		Scholarships, donations, grants awarded
		Law school outreach events/benefits hosted
	9	Legislative bills reviewed/drafted
		Newsletters produced
	1	Mini-CLEs produced
		Co-sponsored half/day to multi-day CLEs with WSBA
		Receptions/forums hosted
		Awards given
	1	New Lawyer Outreach events/benefits
		Other (please describe):
<p><b>2020 Goals &amp; Priorities (Top 5)</b></p>	1	Host quarterly mini-CLEs that have value to our members and, in general, help military and civilian attorneys provide legal services to military personnel, veterans, and their families.
	2	Assist the Washington State Attorney General’s Office Legal Assistance to Veteran’s and Military Personnel Division

	<b>3</b>	Monitor and draft proposed legislation having impacts on military personnel, veterans, and their families and provide comments/testimony as appropriate.
	<b>4</b>	Evaluate and implement training methods to improve accessibility for LAMP members/military attorneys throughout Washington state.
	<b>5</b>	Continue to increase section diversity, outreach, and membership.

**Please report how this section is addressing diversity:**

(Are you using any of the tools provided by WSBA and if so, how? Have you sought out training or consultation from the Diversity Specialist? How have you elicited input from a variety of perspectives in your decision-making? What have you done to promote a culture of inclusion within the board or committee? What has your section done to promote equitable conditions for members from historically underrepresented backgrounds to enter, stay, thrive, and eventually lead the profession?)

The LAMP section strives to increase women and minority participation in our section and particularly in leadership positions. The veteran and military population we advocate for is very diverse and includes people from all walks of life and sexual orientations coming from all parts of the 54 states and territories. Current and past executive board comprises members of historically disadvantaged groups, such veterans, women, non-Christian religious denominations, and non-white ethnicities.

**Please report how this section is addressing professionalism:**

(Does the section's work promote respect and civility within the legal community? Does it seek to improve relationships between and among lawyers, judges, staff and clients? Does it raise awareness about the causes and/or consequences of unprofessional behavior?)

The LAMP section hosts CLE presentation for its members and guests. In every presentation there is a portion that talks about the proper way to address legal issues in court, with the government, and/or with other attorneys. In general, attorneys who represent military personnel in military or civilian courts are held to a high-ethical standard and we strive to give them the information and tools to maintain that high-standard. Likewise, civilian attorneys representing military personnel, veterans, and their families receive educational opportunities to learn about the military culture and high standards expected.

**Please report how this section is integrating new and young lawyers into its work:**

(How have you brought new and young lawyers into your decision making process? Has the section supported new and young lawyers by (for example) helping to find and prepare them for employment, assisting with debt management, building community, and providing leadership opportunities?)

LAMP participates in the Young Lawyer liaison program and has a young lawyer assigned to our section for the next two years. LAMP participates in outreach event to new lawyers and law students by attending and contributing to WYLD open night section nights in Spokane, and Seattle. Law students may join the LAMP section as non-voting members (at a reduced cost). New lawyers and law students have numerous opportunities to network with military and civilian lawyers at LAMP events and in some cases are mentored by LAMP members. All law

school in Washington State have military/veteran law school associations which are supported by the LAMP section and which provide leadership opportunities for law students.

**Please describe your Executive Committee's relationship with WSBA staff and the Board of Governors.**

*For example:*

- *Quality of WSBA staff support/services provided to Section Executive Committee*
- *Involvement with Board of Governors, including assigned BOG liaison*
- *Ideas you have on ways WSBA can continue to strengthen/support services to sections.*
  
- The WSBA leadership and administrative staff has actively supported LAMP efforts to provide legal assistance to our returning military personnel, veterans, and families impacted by the long war overseas.
- Our BOG Liaison has been engaged with all key issues addressed by the LAMP.
- The LAMP section has actively participated in WSBA hosted leadership events and provided comments to help WSBA understand our section membership goals and needs moving forward.

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

Reports are scheduled to be included in the January 2020 BOG Meeting Materials.

**Return by December 6, 2019 to [sections@wsba.org](mailto:sections@wsba.org)**