

Office of Military and Veterans Legal Assistance Advisory Group, Washington State Attorney General's Office

Thursday, March 4, 2021, via GoTo Meeting

Present: Joyce Bruce, Sahar Fathi, Ellen Austin Hall, Anthony Pickett, Gavriel Jacobs, Beatrice Lucas, Mariah Hanley, Diana Singleton, David Hanken, Sarah Morehead, Robert Johnson, Michael Terasaki

11:05 AM: Meeting brought to order, introductions.

11:10 AM: Discussion and adoption of the previous meetings minutes.

11:15 AM: Joyce Bruce provides an update on OMVLA activities.

- 98 requests for assistance since the last meeting consisting of:
- Family law and child support adjustments.
- Landlord/tenant and eviction cases.
- Consumer protection issues.

11:20 AM: Second discussion of proposed Advisory Group sub-committees.

- Joyce presents her early work on the veterans of color sub-committee and outreach.
- Group discussion on other proposed committees including: volunteer attorney training, female veterans, and less than honorable discharge cases.
- The group discusses whether any of these have existing organizations serving their needs and if so, how to engage with them.

11:29 AM: Joyce provides an update on the Americorps VISTA grant application with a special thank you to Diana Singleton, Michael Terasaki and Mariah Hanley for their organizations providing letters of support.

11:34 AM: Joyce presents on previously proposed by-laws and solicits further input.

11:38 AM: Joyce updates the group on the law clerk interview process.

11:42 AM: Colleen Melody, Division Chief for the Attorney General's Wing Luke Civil Rights Division joins the call for a discussion of enforcement of the Governor's eviction moratorium as a result of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

- Introductions.

- The program is staffed by 40 attorneys processing more than 8,000 cases to date.
- The goals of the program are to provide technical assistance and guidance on enforcement, to prevent evictions and threats to evict with the goal of stabilizing housing.
- The program is most effective when contacted early in the eviction process.

11:48 AM: Discussion of how 60 day notices of sale and notices to move in that appear disengenous are being handled.

11:50 AM: Mariah Hanley asks how “participation fees” in Oxford Houses are being handled under the moratorium. This leads to further discussion of the moratorium in relation to transitional housing, hotels and motels.

11:55 AM: Colleen provides the group with contact information for the eviction moratorium program:

<https://fortress.wa.gov/atg/formhandler/ago/COVID19EvictionComplaintForm.aspx>.

11:58 AM: The group considers a possible extension of the moratorium and pending legislation that may influence a decision to extend.

12:00 PM: Roundtable Discussion:

- Housing/eviction prevention
- Veteran vaccine eligibility
- VA claims resuming.

12:04 PM: For the good of the order.

12:05 PM: Adjourned.