

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

Thursday, January 14, 2021, via GoTo Meeting

**Present:** Joyce Bruce, Sahar Fathi, Ellen Austin Hall, Anthony Pickett, Ronald Cox, Daniel Jones, Eric McDonald, Robert Johnson, Phil Sanders, Brett Rubio, Beatrice Lucas, Mariah Hanley, Nicholas Warack, Lloyd Chee, Laurie Davenport, Michael Terasaki, Michael Adams, Kevin Devine and Sarah Morehead.

**11:00 AM:** Meeting brought to order, introductions.

**11:07 AM:** Discussion and adoption of the previous meetings minutes.

**11:10 AM:** Joyce Bruce provides an update on OMVLA activities.

- 130 requests for assistance since the last meeting with an uptick in family law cases.
- Ongoing concerns over evictions and consumer issues.

**11:12:** Discussion of proposed Advisory Group sub-committees.

- Veterans of Color sub-committee and potential outreach contacts

**11:14 AM:** Joyce Bruce presents a draft proposal for by-laws.

- Nicholas Warack offers for consideration a “two-tier” approach--who does the statute contemplate as a “core member” of the committee for purposes of a quorum.
- Discussion of how to incorporate those organizations that participate in the advisory group, but are not listed in statute.
- Group consideration of how the by-laws can guarantee diverse representation amongst voting members.
- Discussion of simple majority versus consensus voting.

**11:28 AM:** Joyce Bruce shares the 2021 OMVLA Veteran Law Clerk job posting and encourages the board to suggest candidates.

**11:31 AM:** Discussion of the 2021 meeting schedule.

**11:33 AM:** Joyce Bruce announces the Attorney General's Office application for an Americorp Vista grant in pursuit of establishing a training institute for volunteer attorneys.

**11:35 AM:** Roundtable discussion on:

- Options for discharge upgrades for those veterans over income level threshold;
- Handling USSERA cases;
- SB 5160, Attorney General and other organizations involvement;
- Volunteer workload and training opportunities;
- Evictions, specifically loopholes in the proclamation being utilized by landlords and possible legal remedies for those loopholes.

**11:50 AM:** For the good of the order.

**11:51 AM:** Adjourned