

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

Thursday, April 15, 2021, via Zoom

Present: Joyce Bruce, Sahar Fathi, Ellen Austin Hall, Anthony Pickett, Paul Cruz, Michael Adams, Ronald Cox, John Nelson, David Hanken, Caesar Kalinowski, Mariah Hanley, Diana Singleton, Kevin Devine

11:03 AM: Meeting brought to order, introductions.

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

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

- 75 requests for assistance since the last meeting consisting of:
- Family law and child support adjustments.
- Landlord/tenant and eviction cases. Moratorium Questions

11:13 AM: Third discussion of proposed Advisory Group sub-committees.

- Group discussion on proposed committees including: veterans of color, women veterans and less than honorable discharge cases.

11:15 AM: Joyce provides an update on the AmeriCorps VISTA grant application announcing that the Attorney General's Office has received its requested allocation of three VISTAs for 3 years.

- These VISTAs will largely be dedicated to constructing and maintaining a training institute for volunteer attorneys.
- Joyce also encourages the board to reach out to those who may be interested in the VISTA opportunity in the coming weeks.

11:20 AM: Discussion of upcoming training opportunities, including a veteran specific CLE series on housing, homelessness and landlord/tenant. Mariah Hanley informs the group of the Northwest Justice Projects Bi-weekly "lunch and learn" program.

11:25 AM: The group discusses the ongoing By-Law writing process, with a plan to vote on final edits at the next meeting (5/24/21).

11:30 AM: Assistant Attorney General John Nelson of the Consumer Protection Division joins the group to discuss his work as the Attorney General's SCRA Prosecutor.

- Introductions.
- John's team handles SCRA prosecution/pension poaching/other consumer protection issues specifically targeting veterans.
- Consumer Protection Act cases vs. those that fall under Landlord-Tenant—what kind of cases merit a consumer complaint and a referral to his team?
- Overview of the [State of Washington v. Burns Towing, Inc.](#), as an example of this work.
- Group discussion of: SCRA compliance in debt servicing, property management and lease termination and whether “pension poaching” requires a further legislative fix.

11:50 AM: Roundtable Discussion:

- Reconsideration of sub-committees and how specifically they will be formed.
- Details of the next meeting.
- Supreme Court task force on bar licensure.
- Potential article for the November (Veteran's Day) issues of the Bar news.

12:02 PM: For the good of the order.

12:03 PM: Adjourned.