

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

Monday, May 24, 2021, via Zoom

Present: Joyce Bruce, Sahar Fathi, Ellen Austin Hall, Anthony Pickett, Ronald Cox, Michael Adams, Gavriel Jacobs, Sarah Morehead, Paul Cruz, Mariah Hanley, Laurie Davenport, Eric McDonald, Lisa Kelley, Caesar Kalinowski, Robert Johnson

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

11:05 AM: Discussion and adoption of the previous meetings minutes.

11:07 AM: Joyce Bruce provides an update on OMVLA activities.

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

11:10 AM: VISTA Update: The application screening process has begun with a potential candidate start date of July 7, 2021.

11:12 AM: Joyce announces a three-part mini-CLE on evictions, the moratorium and changes in law in partnership with the WSBA Legal Assistance to Military Personnel Section (LAMP).

11:13 AM: Caesar Kalinowski provides a brief update from the Supreme Court's bar licensure task force.

11:15 AM: The group discusses the ongoing By-Law writing process, including identifying specific groups and participants. Questions included: can non-members join? If yes, should an OMVLA member chair a committee with non-member participants?

- "Changing State and Federal Law," possibly Caesar K. and Eric M.
- Women Veterans, possibly Gavriel J.
- Veterans of Color, possibly Judge Cox, questions about the specific functions of such a sub-committee.

- Extended discussion on the possibility of an other than honorable discharge group. Does OMVLA see requests from this group? Should there be a narrowed set of criteria for which types of dishonorable discharges OMVLA may assist with?

11:40 AM: Roundtable Discussion:

- Mariah H. announces additional staffing opportunities at the Northwest Justice Project in their eviction defense team.
- There has not been an uptick in requests for assistance with evictions as of yet, but preparations are under way to begin that work in the next 60 days.

11:45 AM: For the good of the order.

11:47 AM: Adjourned.