

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

Thursday, July 8, 2021, via Zoom

Present: Joyce Bruce, Anthony Pickett, Gavriel Jacobs, Laurie Davenport, Paul Cruz, Mariah Hanley, Eric McDonald, Caesar Kalinowski, Michael Terasaki

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

11:05 AM: Discussion of previous meeting minutes, Caesar Kalinowski and Gavriel Jacobs suggest minor changes.

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

- 39 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: Americorps VISTA Update: One candidate has accepted a position and an additional candidate has been offered.

11:12 AM: Training Update:

- OMVLA is currently hosting a free three-part evictions mini CLE series. In partnership with the Washington State Bar Association Legal Assistance to Military Personnel Section, the King County Housing Justice Project and Northwest Justice Project, OMVLA is providing attorneys with information related to client representation through the eviction process and opportunities to help veterans and servicemembers at risk of being evicted.
- Attendance at the first CLE held on June 25 was excellent. The second CLE will be held on July 12.
- Joyce and Mariah Hanley discuss an upcoming "Don't Ask, Don't Tell CLE"
- Discussion around Veterans Day events, trainings and the optimal time for different service organizations to schedule their events to maximize resources and attendance.

11:20 AM: The group discusses the ongoing By-Law writing process. Topics of discussion:

- How VISTAs will collaborate with and guide sub-committee participation.
- Draft editing.
- Which organizations should be specifically listed in the bylaws and whether it should be tied to the language in the statute.
- The process for removing a participant from the advisory group and whether they should be allowed an appeals process—whether the Attorney General’s office has specific obligations to offer an appeals process. Further research necessary.
- Questions regarding the Open Public Meetings Act and electronic voting.

11:50 AM: Roundtable Discussion:

- Mariah advises the group that they are currently hiring an assistant manager for the Eviction Prevention unit.
- The Attorney General’s Office Civil Rights Division changing responsibilities and responses to eviction complaints as the moratorium is set to expire.

11:55 AM: Discussion of suspending the August meeting of the Advisory Group for attendance purposes.

11:59 AM: Adjourned.