

1. State Bar of Georgia Veterans and Service Members Law Survey

The Georgia Bar has created a Military Veterans and Service Members Committee to assess the unmet legal needs of veterans, active duty service members (including reservists and the National Guard), and their families in Georgia. The Committee will make recommendations to the Bar regarding various options to address these unmet legal needs, possibly including the creation of an attorney referral service.

To determine the level of interest in serving veterans, service members, and their families, we ask for your participation in this brief survey.

***Please tell us your Georgia Bar number. You may be contacted if the Bar approves of the creation of a referral panel. (Proof of errors and omissions insurance coverage will be required to participate.)**

2.

*** Are you willing to provide paid and/or pro bono legal services regarding DISABILITY BENEFITS for veterans? (CLE Training Provided)**

(BACKGROUND: Veterans often need legal counsel in appeals of decisions by the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding disability levels and compensation. These cases may require out-of-state travel, possibly including an appearance before the Board of Veterans Appeals and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. See 38 U.S.C. § 5904 & § 7263 (regarding fee agreements).)

YES

NO

3.

*

CHECK ALL THAT APPLY

PAID

PRO BONO

4.

*** Are you willing to provide paid and/or pro bono legal services regarding civilian employment rights (under USERRA) and other civil LEGAL RIGHTS UNIQUE TO MILITARY MEMBERS under the SCRA and similar laws? (CLE Training Provided)**

(Background: The Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) provides civilian job protection for service members for the purpose of “eliminating or minimizing the disadvantages to civilian careers and employment” resulting from military service. See 38 USCS § 4301 et seq.

The Servicemembers’ Civil Relief Act (SCRA) (formerly known as the Soldiers’ and Sailors’ Civil Relief Act) provides protection for service members. Service members and their families often need legal representation to secure the wide variety of protections available under the SCRA relating to debt relief, eviction, and other matters requiring “the temporary suspension of judicial and administrative proceedings and transactions that may adversely affect the civil rights of servicemembers during their military service.” See 50 U.S.C. Appx. § 501 et seq.)

YES

NO

5.

***CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

PAID

PRO BONO

6.

*** Are you willing to provide paid and/or pro bono legal services for deployed or current or former service members or their families regarding GENERAL CIVIL LEGAL CONCERNS (e.g. divorce, child custody disputes, landlord disputes, taxes, immigration, bankruptcy, insurance, and juvenile proceedings)?**

YES

NO

7.

***CHECK ALL THAT APPLY:**

PAID

PRO BONO

***I am willing to provide services in these areas:**

- Administrative Law
- Bankruptcy
- Civil Litigation
- Consumer Law
- Disability Benefits
- Employment Law
- Family Law
- Insurance Law (including health and disability insurance)
- Immigration Law
- Juvenile Proceedings
- Landlord/Tenant Law
- Medicare/Medicaid/Tricare
- Military Law
- Personal Injury
- Residential Real Estate
- Social Security Benefits
- Tax Law
- Voting Rights
- Wills and Estates
- Other (please specify)

9.

*** Are you interested in attending CLE training concerning veterans disability benefits appeals?**

Note: A Veterans Benefits Manual and other resources are available for purchase from the National Veterans Legal Services Program. Visit www.nvlsp.org.

YES

NO

10.

***Are you interested in attending CLE training concerning USERRA, the SCRA, and similar legal protections unique to veterans and service members?**

- YES
- NO

11.

*** Please identify the county in which you generally practice law.**

How many miles are you generally willing to travel from your office in connection with your law practice?

- Up to 5 miles
- Up to 10 miles
- Up to 50 miles
- Anywhere in Georgia
- Anywhere in the United States

12.

Please identify any other State Bar section, Bar committee, or local bar group that provides pro bono legal services in your area for veterans, service members, and their families.

Please identify any foundation or other possible sources of funding for pro bono legal services targeting the unmet legal needs of veterans, service members, and their families.

Thank you for your participation in this survey. Please feel free to make comments or suggestions for the Committee's consideration.

Questions about the State Bar of Georgia, Military Veterans and Service Members Committee? Please contact Charles L. Ruffin, Chair, at probono@gabar.org.

Information:

Disability Benefits: Veterans often need legal counsel in appeals of decisions by the Department of Veterans Affairs regarding disability levels and compensation. These cases may require out-of-state travel, possibly including an appearance before the Board of Veterans Appeals and the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims. See 38 U.S.C. § 5904 et seq.

Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act (SCRA) (formerly known as the Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Act): Service members and their families often need legal representation to secure the wide variety of protections available under the SCRA relating to debt relief, eviction, and other matters requiring "the temporary suspension of judicial and administrative proceedings and transactions that may adversely affect the civil rights of servicemembers during their military service." See 50 U.S.C. Appx. § 501 et seq.

Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA): This Act provides civilian job protection for service members for the purpose of "eliminating or minimizing the disadvantages to civilian careers and employment" resulting from military service. See 38 USCS § 4301 et seq.

Related Links:

National Veterans Legal Services Program
www.nvlsp.org

The Georgia Online Justice Community
www.GeorgiaAdvocates.org/GOJC

American Bar Association, Operation Enduring Lamp
<http://www.abanet.org/legalservices/helpreservists/>

Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program
<http://www.vetsprobono.org/>

Military.com
www.military.com/benefits