



Serve Those Who Served Our Country

During Pro Bono Month, we encourage you to consider opportunities to serve those who served our country. With Veterans Day around the corner, we have outlined a few ways for you to volunteer to help here in Dauphin County, across the state or at a national level.

A. Serve Those Who Served Our Country on November 14 - In honor of veterans, active military personnel and their families, AARP Pennsylvania and the Dauphin County Bar Association are jointly presenting a **Veterans Resource Fair** at the Harrisburg Mall, 3501 Paxton Street, Harrisburg PA 17111 on Thursday, **November 14 from 11 AM until 3 PM.**

This event is free and open to the public. At the event, veterans, active military personnel and their loved ones can access a variety of services including protecting themselves from scams, obtaining a DD-214, meeting with Dauphin County Veteran's Affairs staff, gathering information about the Lebanon Veterans Hospital, and speaking with a pro bono attorney.

Thus, pro bono attorneys are needed to help staff an "Ask-A-Lawyer" session from Noon until 2 PM. During the session, veterans, active military personnel and their families can obtain free legal information much like our annual "Ask-A-Lawyer" week at Strawberry Square. If you might be able to assist at this special "Ask-A-Lawyer" session on Thursday, November 14 from Noon until 2 PM at the Harrisburg Mall or have any questions, please let Sandy Ballard know at Sandy@DCBA-PA.org or 717-232-7536 ext. 7

B. PBA's Lawyers Saluting Veterans Program

Through the **Pennsylvania Bar Association Lawyers Saluting Veterans (LSV) Program**, PBA members handle cases in their areas of practice or expertise for Pennsylvania's military veterans, free of charge. The PBA's Pro Bono Office and Military and Veterans' Affairs Committee are coordinating the program.

Veterans in need of free legal services assistance can find help in several ways. They can

- Contact those lawyer volunteers who publicize their participation in the LSV program in their local communities.
- Call the PBA Lawyers Saluting Veterans Hotline at **800-932-0311, ext. 2570**, to request assistance. The PBA Pro Bono Office will assess the request and refer it to a volunteer lawyer.
- Complete the Veteran Request for Assistance [form](#). The PBA Pro Bono Office will assess the request and refer it to a volunteer lawyer.

As a lawyer volunteer, you can [register](#) here for participation in the program.

- Registration will require certification of malpractice insurance.
- After you register for the program, you will receive electronic documents such as an agreement of representation, a pro bono checklist and a termination letter for use with your veteran pro bono clients.
- You will receive an official certificate of participation to publicize your involvement in the program.

[Click here](#) for then-PBA President Francis X. O'Connor's "Side Bar" column about the program in the November/December 2014 issue of the PBA's *Pennsylvania Lawyer* magazine.

C. ABA's Military Pro Bono Project

The ABA Military Pro Bono Project—managed by the ABA Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel (LAMP)—accepts case referrals from military attorneys on behalf of junior-enlisted, active-duty military personnel facing civil legal issues, and it works to place these cases with pro bono attorneys. The Project is also the platform for Operation Stand-By, through which military attorneys and other pro

bono attorneys may seek attorney-to-attorney guidance.

The ABA Military Pro Bono Project offers attorneys two ways to help military families: (1) [Sign up](#) to stay updated about [pro bono case opportunities](#) to provide representation to military members; and (2) [Register](#) with [Operation Stand-By](#) to receive calls or emails from military attorneys or other pro bono attorneys in need of attorney-to-attorney advice.

Please contact Mary C. Meixner at mary.meixner@americanbar.org or 312-988-5783 for more information.

D. The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program

The Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program is a national program that uses volunteers to represent veterans and their dependents or survivors in their appeal before the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (CAVC).

The Program provides training free of charge to attorneys who agree to counsel and/or represent a veteran/VA claimant or family member before the Veterans Court. As well as receiving the day-long training, attorneys who participate are assigned a case that has been screened for merit and provided a screening memo outlining the issues in the case. Volunteers are also assigned a mentor (a practicing veterans' law lawyer or practitioner) to give advice and share sample pleadings. Attorneys also receive the Veterans Benefits Manual (VBM) and other resource materials.

If you want to volunteer or need any additional information please contact Courtney Smith, Director of Volunteer Outreach & Education at (202) 733-3323 or Courtney.Smith@vetsprobono.org