

Statements of Support for the Office of Military Legal Assistance

Barbara Buckley, Executive Director of Nevada Legal Services:

“Members of the military put their lives on the line for all of us. When they face a legal issue – a landlord unwilling to end a lease when orders come to move or a need to give guardianship of their children to a family member – it is important for them to know that we are there for them. That is why the Office of Military Legal Assistance is so important. It creates a critical connection between Nevada’s military and pro bono legal resources to ensure that our military families get the high quality legal help they need when they need it. Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada supports this innovative program, and its staff and pro bono volunteers are committed to helping it become a success. Our troops deserve no less.”

Scott Bensing, President of the Nevada Military Support Alliance:

“The Nevada Military Support Alliance (NMSA) is proud to partner with Nevada’s Attorney General and his Office of Military Legal Assistance in order to bring critical legal services to our military and veterans through the pro bono efforts of Nevada’s legal community. For more than 12 years, the NMSA has been honored to serve Nevada’s warriors and their families with the support and compassion of our entire state.”

Jim Bradshaw, representing the Nevada Justice Association:

“The attorneys of McDonald Carano Wilson recognize that Nevada’s active duty military service members, reserves, National Guard and veterans need legal support services now more than ever. We are honored to participate in this program. Never has the law been more complicated and courts and government agencies more difficult to navigate. A veteran myself, I believe that pro bono assistance for military service members has become a critical civic and professional calling. I urge my fellow Nevada attorneys to support this program. Many of our troops are working poor, and suffer from wounds, disabilities and even homelessness. Given the hardship of service and challenges of constant deployments, Nevada’s service members should be able to count members of the legal profession among those who appreciate their sacrifice and stand ready to help them shoulder their legal burdens.”

Lieutenant Victor Marquez, U.S. Navy, Staff Judge Advocate, Naval Air Station Fallon:

“The Nevada Attorney General’s Office of Military Legal Assistance is an important tool among several to ensure that our service members are “legally ready” to perform their missions. For those service members stationed at Naval Air Station Fallon in a remote part of Northern Nevada, finding legal counsel to assist with in-state legal issues can be challenging. It is even more challenging especially when the cost of legal services often exceeds the budget of our junior service members. This program takes a leadership role in joining the legal needs of service members with local pro bono services that are willing to assist. We welcome this assistance and expect that it will have a lasting, positive impact on our service members and their ability to complete their missions.”

Anna Marie Johnson, Executive Director of Nevada Legal Services:

“Nevada Legal Services is proud to be a partner with the new Office of Military Legal Assistance.” One of the most overlooked areas of legal need are those of the people who have served or are serving their country. Nevada Legal Services looks forward to working with the Attorney General’s office to meet the needs of Nevada’s military families, especially Nevada’s homeless Veterans.”

Testimonial:

The following is a testimonial received from one of the service members the Office assisted in its pilot phase:

"I received a notice that the house I was renting through a local realtor was being foreclosed upon. My realtor/landlord had no idea what was going on and contacted the owner and bank. To protect my daughter and myself, I contacted base legal for advice. They referred me to Nevada Attorney General's Military Legal Assistance Program. The attorney assigned, Mr. Paul Georgeson, was extremely helpful in making sure that everyone involved with this foreclosure knew that there was a renter in the house and was protected from eviction under tenant laws. I can't praise this program enough for what it did for my daughter and me."

Breakdown of Cases:

The following represent the types of cases pro bono attorneys participating in the Office of Military Legal Assistance have taken on:

- 8 Landlord/Tenant matters
- 6 Wills/Durable Powers of Attorney matters
- 2 Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA) matters
- 1 Consumer Fraud matter
- 1 Foreclosure/ Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA) matter
- 1 Guardianship matter
- 1 Veteran Probate matter

The following represent cases that have received referrals from the Office of Military Legal Assistance to its affiliate partners:

- 4 Family Law matters
- 1 Small Claims matter
- 1 Criminal matter
- 1 Debt matter
- 1 Veteran Housing matter