



Veterans Services Project Toolkit for Voluntary Bar Associations

We'd like to enlist you -- local and voluntary bar associations-- into our coordinated efforts to serve veterans.

The State Bar of Georgia Pro Bono Resource Center and the Georgia Military Legal Assistance Program have created this mini toolkit to equip you with pro bono and community service project ideas to help veterans and active duty military personnel.

The American Bar Association Veterans Legal Services Initiative, established by 2016-2017 ABA President Linda Klein, has also launched a holistic, sustainable effort to ensure that veterans have access to justice and receive the legal support they, their families, and their caregivers deserve. View the [ABA resources](#) here.

We hope this toolkit is helpful to you and your local bar association in your efforts to serve veterans.

State Bar of Georgia Resources

State Bar of Georgia committees and sections can help you design your voluntary bar association veterans project. Contact committee or section leaders for ideas and support they may be able to offer.

- [Military Legal Assistance Program Committee](#)

This standing committee shall monitor and render advice to the program's director, Executive Committee, and Board of Governors with respect to the operation of the Military Legal Assistance Program, which facilitates pro bono representation of veterans and service members in addressing their unmet legal needs.

- [Military and Veterans Law Section](#)

The Military-Veterans Law Section sponsors two continuing legal education programs each year promoting awareness and training among bar members of legal issues particular to military service.

- [Local and Voluntary Bars Committee](#)

This standing committee has the duty of promoting the organization and maintenance of local and circuit bar associations throughout the State and creating a closer affiliation between such associations and the State Bar.

- [Access to Justice Committee](#)

This standing committee shall consider and make recommendations to the Board of Governors on: (1) promoting the growth of pro bono service to the poor by members of the State Bar; (2) operation of the Bar's efforts to facilitate the participation of Georgia's lawyers in the delivery of pro bono services through the Pro Bono Project; and (3) how best to give appropriate recognition to Georgia lawyers whose pro bono efforts inspire the members of the legal profession.

- [Continuing Legal Education](#)

State Bar staff can help your local bar with CLE questions and forms.

Georgia Program Resources

- **Georgia Military Legal Assistance Program**

[Sign up to help](#) active duty personnel on a pro bono, low bono or a military discount basis.

For ideas for speakers for your local bar association meetings, contact Christopher Pitts, MLAP director, at MLAP@gabar.org.

- **State Bar of Georgia Pro Bono Resource Center**

GeorgiaAdvocates.org/GAMLAP – Access online support materials for lawyers handling pro bono or low bono cases for low-income veterans and deployed military personnel.

[Veterans Resource Guide](#) Download our Help Guide and share answers with veterans and their families about important available resources.

Georgia.freelegalanswers.org Sign up to provide “bite size” pro bono advice to veterans from your desktop.

For ideas for speakers for your local bar association meetings, contact Mike Monahan, Pro Bono Resource Center director, at probono@gabar.org.

- **State Bar of Georgia Headquarters and Satellite Offices Meeting Resources**

Licensed Georgia attorneys may reserve any of the Bar Center or satellite office (Savannah and Tifton) conference rooms on a first-come, first-served basis for trainings and special events. [Learn more here.](#)

- **ICLE in Georgia Resources**

Access [CLE programming related to veterans and military issues](#):

- Military and Veterans Law: A Primer (2016)
- Rise or Fall? A Mentorship Call - Your First VA Case: What Should be Done and When (2012)
- VA Accreditation (2016)
- VA Accreditation (2015)

ABA Training Resources

- **[Establishing and Enhancing Legal Clinics to Serve Veterans](#)**
This webinar is designed to inspire and assist civil legal aid organizations, law schools and bar associations in creating legal clinics to serve veterans in their communities
- **[Effectively Representing the Veteran Client: Legal and Cultural Basics Webinar](#)** | **[View Webinar](#)** | *You will not receive CLE credit from the ABA for viewing the recorded program. If you are licensed in a state that allows self-study CLE credit, you will have to apply directly to your state certification authority if you wish to receive CLE credit.*
- **[National Coalition for Homeless Veterans Annual Conference: 2015–2018](#)**
[Washington, DC](#)
- **[Fall-Winter 2014 Issue of Experience, Representing Veterans: What You Can do for Your Country](#)**
[Experience](#) is an award winning magazine published by the ABA Senior Lawyers Division. The Fall-Winter 2014 Issue features articles on serving veterans' unmet legal needs, navigating the VA disability claims process, homeless veterans, VA pro bono programs, and other topics.
- **["Lawyers learn to help veterans receive benefits"](#)**
[This ABA 2014 Midyear Meeting program](#) taught lawyers how to represent veterans in the benefits claims process.
- **["My veteran, my client"](#)**
[The Coordinating Committee on Veterans Benefits and Services](#) held a roundtable discussion at the ABA 2014 Midyear Meeting on addressing the legal needs of veterans.
- **[Coordinating Committee on Veterans Benefits and Services Update - Fall 2013](#)**
- **[Veterans' Claims Assistance Network \(VCAN\) Training Webinars](#)**
[Lawyers can register to help veterans receive their benefits.](#)

Potential Project Partners in Georgia (in addition to the resources listed above)

- Law School Veterans Clinics
Legal Clinics for Veterans are available at two law schools in Georgia:
 - [Emory Law School Volunteer Clinic for Veterans](#)
Contact Keely Youngblood at 404/727-1044
 - [GSU Law Volunteer Clinic for Veterans](#)
Contact Patricia Shewmaker at 770/939-1939
 - [University of Georgia School of Law Veterans Legal Clinic](#)
Contact Professor Alexander Scherr at 706/542-6421

- VA Hospital Legal Clinics
The Military and Veterans Law Section of the State Bar of Georgia operates five legal clinics for veterans at the VA medical facilities in Augusta, Decatur, Carrollton, and Fort McPherson. Contact Cary King at (404) 920-4490.
 - [Free Legal Clinics in VA Facilities \(National Listing\)](#)

- Legal Aid Programs
Your local legal aid or pro bono program may be a valuable partner in your efforts. [Use our search engine here](#) to find the program near you.

Voluntary Bar Clinic Service Models and Clinic or Project Materials

- [GeorgiaAdvocates.org/GOJC](#) is a free, password-protected site for Georgia lawyers and contains training materials and sample clinic materials and checklists. The site is managed by the Pro Bono Resource Center.

- Model Voluntary Bar Association Programs with Veterans Component:
 - [City Bar Justice Center](#)
 - [Nassau County Bar Association](#)
 - [Boston Bar Association](#)
 - [Tarrant County Bar Association](#)
 - [Lake County Bar Association](#)

Share Your Story

When your local bar association launches its veterans services project, let us know on Twitter @StateBarofGA and @ProBono_GA or share with us on Facebook and use #ABAServingVeterans. Sharing your story is important- You can have a positive influence on other local bars and lawyers in surrounding communities. Plus, we would like to hear and share any lessons you learned in your project.

For More Information

Contact Mike Monahan, Director, State Bar of Georgia Pro Bono Resource Center, at (404) 527-8762 or probono@gabar.org.