



**Office of Military & Veteran Legal Assistance  
Advisory Committee**

**AGENDA**

**Tuesday, December 9, 2025  
11 AM - 12 PM**

In Person: 800 Fifth Ave, Ste 2000, Seattle, WA 98104

Online: <https://atg-wa.zoom.us/j/89818735930?pwd=kSJmnWWD5cBeswTLDI0d8rbO1dmUag.1>

<u>Objectives:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introductions</li><li>• Discuss status of past, current, and upcoming projects</li><li>• Discuss ways to support each other and this community</li></ul>		
1.	Initial matters <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Welcome &amp; Introductions</li><li>• Approve Meeting Minutes – September 2025</li></ul>	11:00 a.m.
2.	Recent Activities & Summary of Last Quarter <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Q3 Recap – Data &amp; Referral Rates</li><li>• Events &amp; Activities – Recap and Upcoming</li><li>• Volunteer Lawyer Recruitment &amp; Retention Updates</li><li>• 2026 Meeting Schedule</li></ul>	11:15 a.m.
3.	Roundtable / Community Partner Updates & Events	11:45 a.m.
4.	Public Comment	11:55 a.m.
5.	Adjourn	12:00 p.m.

# OMVLA UPDATE: DECEMBER 2025

## HIGHLIGHTS

Since September, OMVLA has

- Recruited over 80 pro bono attorneys
- Assisted 21 veterans at the Seattle VA Veterans Wills Clinic
- Attended outreach events in four counties and conducted rural outreach in three rural Eastern Washington counties

## Quarter 3 Data

Island County was the top county for rural requests

Pierce County was the top county statewide



We received **150 requests** from community members

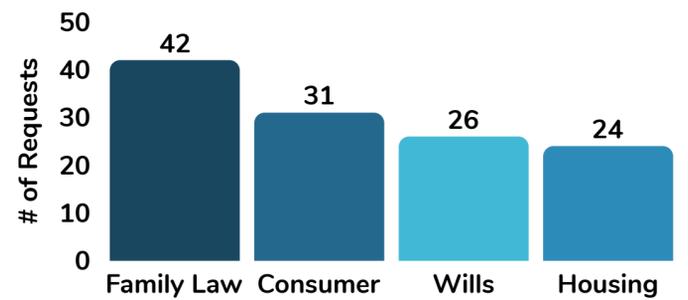


Average FPL for community members is **226%**



**61% of the cases** we sent to pro bono attorneys were accepted for assistance

## Legal Needs by Category Q3 2025



## Comparisons to Quarter 2



Slight **increase** in number of requests (135 in Q2)



Slight **decrease** in percentage of cases accepted by attorneys for assistance (68% in Q2)



More **rural residents** are requesting help. Increased 15 percentage points since Q1, 7 since Q2.



Slight **decrease** in family law cases (but **more** consumer cases)

## Pro Bono Recruitment

# 1,869

attorneys contacted

Over 80 new consumer law, bankruptcy, and estate law attorneys volunteered as a result of this effort.

Our next outreach will be to landlord-tenant and real property attorneys.

## Wills Clinic- 11/1

**21 clients served**  
**8 volunteer attorneys**

“ A perfect opportunity to take care of these legal documents! ”

## Events and Outreach



# Office of Military and Veterans Legal Assistance Advisory Board Meeting

Washington State Attorney General's Office

Tuesday, September 23, 2025, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Via Zoom & In-Person

## Attendees:

### *AGO Staff:*

- Mariah Hanley, OMVLA Manager (Co-Facilitator)
- Ian Anderson, OMVLA Policy Analyst (Co-Facilitator)
- Nick Brown, Washington State Attorney General
- Ellen Austin-Hall, Deputy Director, Policy Division
- Maxwell Schaeffer, Law Enforcement Outreach Lead (Minutes)

### *Advisory Board:*

#### *Voting Members:* **Quorum reached**

- Beth Leonard, WA State Office of Civil Legal Aid
- Caesar Kalinowski, WA State Veterans Bar Association
- Joyce Diaz, WA State Bar Association
- Ned Gignoux, VA Puget Sound / US Department of Veterans Affairs
- Kevin Devine, VA Puget Sound / US Department of Veterans Affairs (Alternate)
- Michael Terasaki, Pro Bono Council
- Paul Cruz, WA State Department of Veterans Affairs
- MAJ Brian Chinchar, Washington Army National Guard
- SFC Ra-Sha Sanford, Washington Army National Guard
- Laurie Davenport, Tacoma Probono
- Cayce Hall, Tacoma Probono
- Lauren Romero, Tacoma Probono

#### *Non-voting Members & Guests:*

- John Clynch, University of Washington
- Carolyn Roberts, Amazon

**11:01am Meeting brought to order by Ian; agenda presented; introductions**

**11:08am Ian introduced the May 2025 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for discussion and approval**

- No changes requested
- Caesar moved to approve; Joyce seconded

- All voted in favor to approve

**11:10am Mariah Provided a recap of 2025 Q2 Data**

- Discussed Q2 requests including number of requests, most prevalent legal issues, top rural counties, and income distribution of requestors

**11:17am Ian and Mariah discussed 2025 Q2 events and 2025 upcoming events and activities**

- Ian shared notable events from Q2:
  - Ian attended Whatcom County Stand-Down in June
  - Mariah and Ian attended *Serving Those Who Served* Conference in Yakima; Mariah presented
  - OMVLA's summer law clerk, Margaret, helped with outreach, cases, and scheduling feedback calls
- Volunteer Feedback Calls – Ongoing
  - Ian is contacting volunteer attorneys to learn about their experience with OMVLA. Approximately 70 lawyers have been contacted so far
- Upcoming Events
  - Clark County Stand Down on September 26<sup>th</sup>
  - Spokane County Stand Down on October 4<sup>th</sup>
  - King County Veterans Seniors Human Services Levy Summit October 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>
  - Microsoft Probono Fair on October 27<sup>th</sup>
  - OMVLA Wills Clinic on November 1<sup>st</sup>
  - Thurston County Stand Down November 6<sup>th</sup>
- Mariah Discussed Volunteer Lawyer Recruitment and Retention
  - OMVLA staff have recruited 17 new attorneys since last meeting, mostly in family law
    - Joyce helped bring in 5 new attorneys through WSBA newsletter recruitment
  - Continuing volunteer outreach to consumer law and bankruptcy attorneys

**1:31am Ian and Mariah shared the results of the 500% FPL Trial Period**

- The 500% FPL trial period is sunseting. These cases accounted for 8.5% of overall since last September
- Caesar moved to make the change permanent; Kevin seconded
- All voted in Favor

**11:38am Mariah presented the Legal Needs Survey report**

- Mariah went over the survey background, timeline, top legal issues reported, demographics, outreach efforts, and a summary of overall findings

**11:55am Ian opened the floor for member updates**

- John Clynch gave an update of UW Veterans Legal Clinic
- Tacoma Probono introduced the VALOR Program, staffed by Lauren Romero, focused on civil legal aid for veterans including VA benefits

**11:59am Ian opened to public comment**

- No members of public were present

**12:00am Ian adjourned the meeting**

DRAFT