

Office of Military and Veterans Legal Assistance

Advisory Board Meeting

Washington State Attorney General's Office

Tuesday, May 13, 2025, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Via Zoom & In-Person

Attendees:

AGO Staff:

- Mariah Hanley, OMLVA Manager (Co-Facilitator)
- Ian Anderson, OMLVA Policy Analyst (Co-Facilitator)
- 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
- Eric MacDonald, WSBA Legal Assistance to Military Personnel section (LAMP)
- 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
- Marcos Zuniga, NW Justice Project
- Sylvia Cohen, LAW Advocates

Non-voting Members & Guests:

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

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

11:06am Ian introduced the February 2025 Advisory Board Meeting Minutes for discussion and approval

- Paul moved to approve; Caesar seconded
- All voted in favor to approve

11:08am Mariah provided a recap of 2025 Q1 Data

- Discussed Q1 requests including number of requests, most prevalent legal issues, top rural counties, and income distribution of requestors

11:15am Ian and Mariah discussed 2025 Q1 events and 2025 upcoming events and activities

- Ian shared about his AGO Legislative Fellowship experience
- OMVLA's 2025 priority is recruiting new pro bono attorneys and retention of current volunteers
 - Mariah recruited 29 new volunteer lawyers, primarily in family law, and discussed the methods she used to recruit new volunteers
 - Beginning in June, OMVLA will conduct phone interviews with current volunteer attorneys for their feedback
- OMVLA will have a 2025 summer intern
- Community Outreach: OMVLA is reviewing potential stand-downs to attend this summer

1:27am Ian opened the floor to any community updates and events

- John Clynch reported out about the UW Veterans Law Clinic
 - UW veterans wills clinic rescheduled to Fri, July 25th
- Kevin & Mariah discussed OMVLA holding a wills clinic in November

11:31am Ian opened the meeting to public comment

- No members of the public were present; no comments were introduced

11:32am Roundtable Discussion/Needs & Support/Good of the Order

11:33am Meeting Adjourned