



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

AGENDA

**Tuesday, May 19, 2026
11 AM - 12 PM**

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

Online: <https://atg-wa.zoom.us/j/83955486962?pwd=rkrNbNm5Vxqnjw2Obu89nVP2K4I3gu.1>

<u>Objectives:</u> • Introductions • Discuss status of past, current, and upcoming projects • Discuss ways to support each other and this community		
1.	Initial matters • Welcome & Introductions • Approve Meeting Minutes – February 2026	11:00 a.m.
2.	Presenter: “Seek Then Speak,” Lauren Vlas, AGO Senior Policy Analyst	11:10 a.m.
3.	Recent Activities & Summary of Last Quarter • 2026 Q1 Data • Events & Activities – Recap and Upcoming	11:25 a.m.
4.	Roundtable / Community Partner Updates & Events	11:45 a.m.
5.	Public Comment	11:55 a.m.
6.	Adjourn	12:00 p.m.

OMVLA UPDATE: Q1 2026

HIGHLIGHTS

In Q1 2026, OMVLA:

- Received 215 requests for assistance
- Conducted virtual and in-person outreach to every rural county to WA, including delivering flyers to 11 towns in E. WA
- Assisted 18 veterans and family members at the March VA Wills Clinic in Seattle

Quarter 1 Data

Whitman, Island, & Skagit tied for top rural county for requests (4 each)

Pierce County was the top county statewide (53)



We received **215 requests** from community members

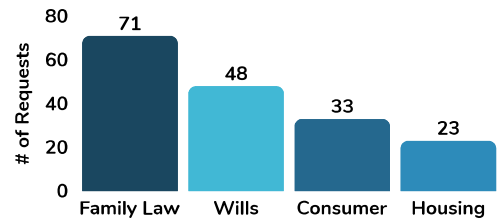


Average FPL for community members is **241%**



89% of the cases we sent to pro bono attorneys were accepted for assistance

Legal Needs by Category Q1 2026



Comparisons to Quarter 4



42% increase in number of requests (151 in Q4)



Slight **decrease** in rural cases (13.4% in Q1; 15% in Q4 2025) despite substantial rural outreach



Slight **increase in requests from servicemembers and family** (8.4% in Q1; 7.4% in Q4 2025)



No change to percentage of **family law cases** (33%) from Q4 2025

2026 Priority: Rural Outreach

120+

rural organizations contacted about OMVLA's work

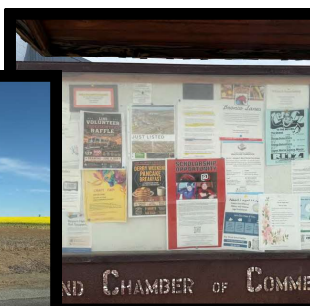
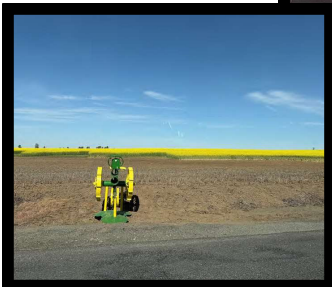
- 15 virtual meetings and 1 in-person meeting so far, with more scheduled
- Distribution of hundreds of flyers and Your Rights as a Veteran guides

Wills Clinic- 3/28

18 clients served



Events and Outreach



Office of Military and Veterans Legal Assistance Advisory Board Meeting

Washington State Attorney General's Office

Tuesday, February 17th, 2026, 11:00 am - 12:00 pm, Via Zoom & In-Person

Attendees:

AGO Staff:

- Mariah Hanley (Co-Facilitator)
- Ian Anderson (Co-Facilitator)
- Enoka Herat (Policy Director)
- Mennah El-Gammal (Minutes)

Advisory Board:

Voting Members **Quorum reached**

- Beth Leonard, WA State Office of Civil Legal Aid
- Caesar Kalinowski, WA State Veterans Bar Association
- Paul Cruz, WA State Department of Veterans Affairs
- Kevin Devine, VA Puget Sound / US Department of Veterans Affairs
- SFC Ra-Sha Sanford, Washington Army National Guard
- Eric MacDonald, WSBA Legal Assistance to Military Personnel (LAMP)
- Joyce Diaz, WA State Bar Association
- Heidi Bode, LAW Advocates
- Marcos Zuniga, NWJP
- Laura Hannon, Pro Bono Council
- Cayce Hall, Tacoma Probono
- Lauren Romero, Tacoma Probono

Non-voting Members & Guests:

- None

11:00 am Meeting brought to order by Ian; agenda presented; introductions

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

- No changes requested.
- Caesar moved to approve; Paul seconded.
- All voted in favor to approve.

11:12 am Mariah Provided a recap of 2025 Year-End data

- A slight decrease in cases from 2024 (likely because we did significant Legal Needs Survey outreach in 2024).
- Family law remains our #1 requested problem area.
- Fewer requests came from rural counties.
- Recruited 142 new volunteer lawyers.

11:22 am Ian and Mariah discussed 2026 past and upcoming events and activities

- Notable events since last meeting:
 - Mariah presented veterans cultural competency CLE to bankruptcy lawyers on December 12th.
 - OMOVLA presented to King County Employee Veterans Affinity Group on December 17th.
 - Mariah presented CLE with LAMP on January 15th.
 - Partnered with CENTS for Veterans Debt Clinic on February 7th.
 - Ian completed the WDVA LGBTQ+ Veteran training series.
- Upcoming Events
 - Veterans Wills Clinic at Seattle VA on March 28th.
 - OMOVLA tabling at Nooksack Tribal Resource Fair on March 14th.
 - Tabling at Okanogan Stand Down on April 23rd (tentative).
 - Conducting outreach to community partners in rural counties.
 - Conducting outreach to Native and Tribal military & veteran organizations.
 - Ongoing volunteer attorney recruitment.

11:35 am Ian opened the floor for member updates

- Eric (LAMP) talked about their upcoming CLE on January 15th.
- Paul (WDVA) talked about upcoming Governor's Town Hall meeting.
- Lauren (Tacoma Probono) talked about their reoccurring legal clinic at the American Lake VA on the 3rd Wednesday of each month. Walk-ins welcome.
 - Ra-Sha requested a copy of the flyer. Ian will send it to the entire board.

11:43 am Ian opened the meeting to public comment

- No members of public were present.

11:44 am Ian adjourned the meeting