

Bar LEADER

JULY 2007

FROM THE AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION

TOOLKIT

This Month's Theme: **Legal Service for Those Who Serve**

Welcome

Welcome to *Bar Leader Toolkit* that will bring together ABA resources on a single topic each month. The purpose for developing these monthly toolkits is twofold. Presenting a roster of timely topics in this format will provide in-depth information for you and other bar association leaders to use in speaking, writing and editorializing within your communities. Also, this approach allows bar associations throughout the country to speak as one on topics relating to social improvement and the pursuit of justice.

For the first issue targeted for activities during June and July, the topic is legal assistance to the military in recognition of the role the nation's military men and women have played in securing and maintaining our independence. With Flag Day on June 14th and Independence Day on July 4th, the timing seems ideal to acquaint bar leaders with the extent of resources and activities undertaken by the ABA on behalf of service personnel.

Each monthly toolkit will contain a variety of ready-to-use pieces. For example, this initial kit includes op-ed pieces, PowerPoint slides, a draft proclamation for local governments and a check list to use with military clients called to active duty. These pieces link to online resources that offer detailed background on the topics.

Your thoughts on this information are important. After you have a chance to review this material, could you please take a few minutes to fill out the survey linked from this page and let us know your thoughts?

Thanks. We appreciate your time.

Back to top.

© 2007 American Bar Association

Featured Tools

[Op-Ed](#)

[Presentation Slides](#)

[Templates](#)

[Resources](#)

[Checklist](#)

[Dear Colleague](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Download *Bar Leader Toolkit*](#)



This Month's Theme: **Legal Service for Those Who Serve**

Op-Ed on Operation Enduring Lamp

From the beginning of our republic, lawyers have shouldered the responsibility of representing clients whose causes were unpopular, clients who were the underdogs against impossible odds, and clients who were poor and unable to pay. Lawyers have extended their representation to these clients because they believe in the sense of justice and fair play spelled out in our Constitution.

And, just as some lawyers are standing up for their right to offer defense to detainees, others are offering their services to this country's service men and women who need legal representation in civil courts. Under the American Bar Association's Operation Enduring LAMP (Legal Assistance to Military Personnel), a consortium of state and local bar associations have recruited volunteer lawyers to assist service members on civil law matters. In addition, Operation Standby, a project of the Military Law Committee of the Section of Family Law, offers a national network of expert family-law consultants ready to advise military lawyers on their clients' family-law problems.

With the growing number of service members deployed away from their homes, state and local bar associations are seeing an increased need for legal services, ranging from real estate transactions to credit and custody issues, such as temporary guardianship of a minor child while the parent is stationed overseas. The number of military legal providers has not increased while the number of service personnel and their legal problems has risen dramatically.

Helping to bridge the gap between the two is where these ABA-backed resources enter the picture. Members of state and local bar associations provide their services on a pro bono (for the public good) basis.

Back to top.

© 2007 American Bar Association

Featured Tools

[Op-Ed](#)

[Presentation Slides](#)

[Templates](#)

[Resources](#)

[Checklist](#)

[Dear Colleague](#)

[Contact Us](#)

[Feedback](#)

[Download *Bar Leader Toolkit*](#)



BarLEADER **TOOLKIT**

JULY 2007

This Month's Theme: **Legal Service for Those Who Serve**

PowerPoint Presentations

Helping Service Personnel Maintain a Strong Financial Footing

Caring for Children of Military Services

Featured Tools

Op-Ed

Presentation Slides

Templates

Resources

Checklist

Dear Colleague

Contact Us

Feedback

Download *Bar Leader Toolkit*

© 2007 American Bar Association



BarLEADER **TOOLKIT**

JULY 2007

This Month's Theme: **Legal Service for Those Who Serve**

Proclamation Template

WHEREAS, the United States of America celebrates its freedom on July 4; and

WHEREAS, the military of the United States has ensured our nation's freedom since the beginning of the republic; and

WHEREAS, the families of military personnel who are actively representing our country in locations around the globe; and

WHEREAS, the children from these families need support from their schools and communities so they can benefit from continuity of education and care; and

WHEREAS, the (local bar association) celebrates support for families of military personnel;

NOW, THEREFORE, I (name and title of local official) do hereby proclaim July 4, 2007, as Military Families Day and along with the members of the (local bar association) urge fellow citizens to connect with military families in order to assure that legislation allowing for continued care and continued education as well as other projects benefiting our society as a whole take place.

Signed this ____ day of _____, 2007

To download word file, please click [here](#).

Back to top.

© 2007 American Bar Association

Featured Tools

Op-Ed

Presentation Slides

Templates

Resources

Checklist

Dear Colleague

Contact Us

Feedback

Download *Bar Leader Toolkit*



This Month's Theme: **Legal Service for Those Who Serve**

Resources Allow Lawyers to Help Client Enter and Leave the Military

Preparing to enter the service and preparing to leave are both times that require careful planning and often the help of a lawyer. Resources for lawyers working with service personnel are found through links on this page.

The first link is to a tool that helps members of the Armed Forces check their readiness when they enter the military or when they transfer to a new duty station. The tool, a legal readiness checklist, asks a series of questions and suggests when the service person should speak with a lawyer.

www.abanet.org/legalservices/downloads/lamp/legalreadinesschecklist.pdf

The second link is to the Report of the Working Group on Protecting the Rights of Service Members, a document that provides extensive coverage of programs supporting military personnel and their families. It offers detailed information on the United Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). USERRA describes an employer's obligation to employees called to active duty in the military and the returning service person's expectations for regaining civilian employment. The Working Group Report prompted adoption of a number of pro-service member policy initiatives.

www.abanet.org/legalservices/downloads/lamp/wgprsmreport.pdf

Back to top.

© 2007 American Bar Association

Featured Tools

Op-Ed

Presentation Slides

Templates

Resources

Checklist

Dear Colleague

Contact Us

Feedback

Download *Bar Leader Toolkit*



BarLEADER **TOOLKIT**

JULY 2007

This Month's Theme: **Legal Service for Those Who Serve**

Checklist

- ✓ Download checklist to use with military clients called to active duty

Featured Tools

Op-Ed

Presentation Slides

Templates

Resources

Checklist

Dear Colleague

Contact Us

Feedback

Download *Bar Leader Toolkit*

© 2007 American Bar Association



+

BarLEADER **TOOLKIT**

JULY 2007

This Month's Theme: **Legal Service for Those Who Serve**

Dear Colleague

When American Bar Association members gathered at the Midyear Meeting in Miami, their agenda included two recommendations to the House of Delegates from the American Bar Association's Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel (LAMP).

These recommendations are of interest to members of the (local bar association) because they demonstrate the ways in which we and your ABA support the men and women on active duty with our nation's military. They also indicate ways that we can, when possible in our own practices, ensure that we are giving advice and counsel to any military clients we may have with consistency across the country.

The first of these recommendations (108A) concerns mandatory legal assistance to all low-income, active-duty service men and women in pay grades E-6 and below. Current legislation states that individual service branches "may provide legal assistance [to active-duty service personnel] in connection with their personnel (sic) legal affairs...subject to the availability of legal staff resources."

Currently the increased demand for military legal services in military justice, administrative discharge proceedings and claims investigations has taken resources and personnel away from providing legal services to individual service men and service women. Wartime budget pressures have also undermined legal assistance resources.

The second recommendation (108B) urges federal, territorial, state and local lawmakers to respond to the increasing social and family support needs of the young and teenage children of deployed American military members. There are just under 2 million dependent children whose parents are serving in the Armed Forces, including the Reserves and National Guard, according to the Military Child Education Coalition.

Approximately ten percent have a parent deployed away from home, and in many cases are living with a non-parent caregiver. The ABA supports legislation that would allow these surrogate parents to use their accrued sick or personal time to care for these children as if the children were their own. The ABA also encourages all states to work together in ensuring that children can attend public school in the district in which their non-parent caregiver lives during the time of their parent's deployment.

You can read these Recommendations at www.abanet.org/leadership/2007/

Featured Tools

Op-Ed

Presentation Slides

Templates

Resources

Checklist

Dear Colleague

Contact Us

Feedback

Download *Bar Leader Toolkit*



midyear/docs/

SUMMARYOFRECOMMENDATIONS/SUMOFRECS.doc.

Also included here are two additional items, a proclamation in support of military personnel that you can encourage your community government to pass as well as a PowerPoint presentation that gives background on numbers of children affected by their parent's deployment.

This season, when we celebrate our nation's flag and our independence, marks a time when we should ensure that the men and women in our nation's military have traditional rights to representation and care for children that exist for us all.

Sincerely,

Name

Local Bar Association

Back to top.

© 2007 American Bar Association

Bar LEADER TOOLKIT

JULY 2007

This Month's Theme: **Legal Service for Those Who Serve**

Tell us what you think

Thanks for taking time to review *Bar Leader Toolkit*, an online resource for bar association leaders. Please take a couple of minutes to answer the following questions. Your answers will guide us as we plan future online materials.

This information was informative and helpful:

Yes No Somewhat

I would like to see other topics covered in this format:

Yes No Somewhat

The tools I would find most useful are:

- Articles
- Op-Ed pieces
- Q-and-As
- PowerPoint Presentations
- Video news releases
- Radio news releases
- Other

Please cover the following topic(s):

I am affiliated with:

Local Bar Association State Bar Association

Featured Tools

Op-Ed

Presentation Slides

Templates

Resources

Checklist

Dear Colleague

Contact Us

Feedback

Download *Bar Leader Toolkit*



Back to top.

© 2007 American Bar Association

+