

*For it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' "Chuck him out, the brute!"  
But it's "Savior of 'is country" when the guns begin to shoot;  
An' it's Tommy this, an' Tommy that, an' everything you please;  
An' Tommy ain't a bloomin' fool – you bet that Tommy sees!*

We can report that America is well beyond the conditions and circumstances in 19th century England that gave rise to Rudyard Kipling's lament in his poem, *Tommy*. Our active duty, reserve, and National Guard service members are valued and respected citizens. The importance of their role as front-line defenders of our country in the global war on terror is widely understood and appreciated. However, they are often not treated fairly in our courts, the workplace, and other venues. Accordingly, our report is directed not only to the leadership and membership of the ABA, but to the governors, legislators, judges, and other state and community leaders who are responsible for the protection and well being of America's warriors.

President Dennis Archer recognized the inequities that our service members encounter in such areas as family support, child custody, housing, tax law, and employment rights. He directed the formation of our Working Group and the production of this report, which is the culmination of the industry, talent, and expertise of many individuals and groups. His concern for military-related legal issues provided a lens that focused many diffuse elements into a cohesive effort the results of which will be of sustained and growing importance.

We owe special thanks to the lawyer-liaisons from the Armed Forces and Department of Defense who gave generously of their time, experience, and wisdom. They continue the long tradition of ABA-military cooperation. Specifically, we note the contributions of Mr. Nick Grasselli, U.S. Coast Guard; Colonel (Select) Timothy Guiden, U.S. Air Force; Commander Jennifer Herold, Judge Advocate General's Corps, U.S. Navy; Mr. John Meixell, U.S. Army; Mr. Chris Rydelek, U.S. Marine Corps; and Colonel Steve Strong, Department of Defense.

Our work would not have been possible without the support of the Judge Advocates General of the Army, Navy, Air Force, and Coast Guard, the Staff Judge Advocate to the Commandant of the Marine Corps, and many State Adjutants General. Hundreds of military legal assistance attorneys, both judge advocates and government service lawyers, provided many of the ideas and recommendations contained in this report. Military law related committees of many bar associations offered invaluable insight into how state and local laws impact the everyday lives of service members and their families.

Very importantly, we take this opportunity to recognize the outstanding efforts of the working group members and supporting staff.

Finally, we express our gratitude to the men and women in uniform for whom this report was chartered. We share President Archer's expectation that this report will begin the ongoing and evolving refinement of legal protections for those who sacrifice their own comfort and safety to ensure our freedom.

## **The American Bar Association Working Group on Protecting the Rights of Service Members**

### Co-Chairs

Brigadier General David C. Hague, USMC (Ret.)  
Burke, Virginia

Rear Admiral John S. Jenkins, USN (Ret.)  
Alexandria, Virginia

### Standing Committee on Legal Assistance for Military Personnel

Commander Dan Bean, USNR  
Jacksonville, Florida

Major James Dockery, USAFR  
San Antonio, Texas

Colonel Patricia F. Halsey-Munroe, USMCR (Ret.)  
Alameda, California

### Section of Family Law

Patricia Apy  
Red Bank, New Jersey

Colonel Mark E. Sullivan, USAR (Ret.)  
Raleigh, North Carolina

### General Practice, Solo and Small Firm Section

Lt. Colonel Greg Huckabee, USA (Ret.)  
Vermillion, South Dakota

### Government and Public Sector Lawyers Division

Gary Anderson  
San Antonio, Texas

### Section of Labor and Employment Law

Captain Christopher T. Dong, USAFR  
Ellicott City, Maryland  
Section of Litigation

John Mathias, Jr.  
Chicago, Illinois

Section of Real Property, Probate and Trust Law

Captain Kevin P. Flood, USN (Ret.)  
Jacksonville, Florida

Section of State and Local Government Law

Captain Dwight Merriam, USNR (Ret.)  
Hartford, Connecticut

Section of Taxation

Richard Shaw  
San Diego, California

Tort Trial and Insurance Practice Section

Lt. Colonel Fletcher D. Handley, Jr USANG  
El Reno, Oklahoma

Young Lawyers Division

Lt. Commander Benes Aldana, USCG  
Washington, DC

State Bar of Washington LAMP

Kenyon E. Luce  
Tacoma, Washington

U.S. Army Legal Assistance Policy Division

John Meixell  
Rosslyn, Virginia

Chief of Legal Assistance - Coast Guard

Nick Grasselli  
Arlington, Virginia

Chief of Legal Assistance - Marine Corps

Chris Rydelek  
Washington, DC

Chief of Legal Assistance - Air Force

Colonel (select) Timothy Guiden, USAF  
Washington, DC

Chief of Legal Assistance - Navy

Commander Jennifer S. Herold, USN  
Washington, DC

Department of Defense Liaison

Colonel Steven Strong, USA

U.S. Air Force – Special Liaison

Colonel John Odom, USAFR  
Shreveport, Louisiana

Working Group Staff

Jane Nosbisch  
Chicago, Illinois

Glenn Fischer  
Chicago, Illinois

Kenneth Goldsmith  
Washington, DC