Montgomery County, MD - Veterans Network Directory

Legal Services - Civil Legal Issues and Military Law

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This is a project of the Montgomery County Commission on Veterans Affairs.

To submit an update, add or remove a listing, or request an alternative format, please contact: MCCVA@montgomerycountymd.gov.

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) of Maryland

3600 Clipper Mill Road, Suite 350 Baltimore, MD 21211 Email: aclu@aclu-md.org www.aclu-md.org

410-889-8555 (Main Line – Does Not Accept Legal Intake) 301-274-5295 (Takoma Park Field Office) 443-524-2558 (Civil Rights Complaint Line)

Goal of the ACLU of Maryland is to make the promises of the U.S. Constitution, Bill of Rights, and the Maryland Declaration of Rights real for everyone in Maryland. They work in the state and federal courts, the Maryland General Assembly and local governments, and in communities across the state to realize this goal. Do not have in-office appointments and do not accept complaints via e-mail. Civil Rights Complaint Line: Staffed by trained Intake Specialists who will record your information and provide you with as much information as possible. Intake Specialists are not attorneys and cannot provide legal advice. If an Intake Specialist determines that the issue is one that their office may be able to assist with, the information will be relayed to a staff attorney. Complaint Line is in operation on Tuesdays and Thursdays between 1pm and 3pm.

Bar Association of Montgomery County, Maryland

27 West Jefferson Street Rockville, MD 20850 www.montbar.org

301-424-3454 (V) 301-279-9100 (Lawyer Referral Service)

Lawyer Referral Service Hours: Monday through Friday, 9am to 1pm Telephone intake only - no walk-ins.

Assist low-income residents of Montgomery County obtain free legal representation and consultation. Lawyer Referral Service refers residents to attorneys in Montgomery County. A fee will be charged by the attorney for a 30 minute inoffice consultation. If your consultation with the attorney exceeds the 30-minute period, he or she may charge additional fees based on their normal hourly rate. Reduced fee services available for income eligible residents.

Disability Rights Maryland (DRM) (formerly Maryland Disability Law Center)

1500 Union Avenue, Suite 2000 Baltimore, MD 21211 www.disabilityrightsmd.org

410-727-6352 (V) 410-235-5387 (TTY) 1-800-233-7201 (Toll Free)

Provide free legal services to persons with disabilities such as information and referrals to callers about many different legal topics, investigations of complaints that persons with disabilities are abused, neglected, or mistreated, case advocacy for persons with disabilities to obtain certain services, legal representation, technical assistance and legal information to promote self-advocacy, and public education and training. The decision to accept an individual case for representation will be informed by DRM's Advocacy Services Plan, resource limitations, and our commitment to affecting broad-based, significant and lasting change for Marylanders with disabilities. Special Education Intake Department is available for questions or requests related to special education services for children. General Intake **Department** is available for questions or requests related to all other disability-related legal issues.

Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve (ESGR)

Gary Sklar, Volunteer Support Technician 5th Regiment Armory 29th Division Street Baltimore, MD 21201

667-296-4145 (V)

Email: tiffani.m.johnson3.ctrW@army.mil

www.esgr.mil/About-ESGR/Contact/Local-State-Pages/maryland.aspx

Promote cooperation and understanding between Reserve Component Service members (Guard and Reserve) and their civilian employers and to assist in the resolution of conflicts arising from an employee's military commitment.

House of Ruth Legal Clinic

2201 Argonne Drive Baltimore, MD 21218 410-554-8463 (V)

1-888-880-7884 (24-Hour Legal Line)

www.hruth.org/get-help/legal-services

Legal clinic provides free legal advice and representation in securing protective/peace orders, divorce and custody. Client Service Coordinators work in the community with victims in crisis and provide an emergency shelter for women and children in imminent danger.

Joining Forces Project - Maryland Legal Aid

www.mdlab.org/get-help-services/joining-forces-project/

1-888-465-2468 (Hotline)

Hours: Tuesdays, 3pm to 7pm; Thursdays, 9:30am to 1:30pm

Free, statewide legal telephone hotline specifically for low-income individuals who have served in any branch of the military. Qualified volunteer lawyers will be recruited to provide representation to eligible veterans who have more extensive civil legal issues. Veterans may be assisted in the following areas: consumer rights (bankruptcy, debt collection, foreclosure, wage garnishment); family law (child support, custody and visitation, divorce, domestic violence); government benefits (SNAP (Food Stamps), SSI & SSDI, Temporary Cash Assistance, unemployment); veterans' benefits (disability, education, pensions, upgrades and discharges); and housing (breach of lease, evictions, foreclosure, landlord/tenant issues). Services are free for financially eligible individuals.

Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center

1001 Prince George's Boulevard, Suite 750 Upper Marlboro, MD 20774 www.mdcrimevictims.org

301-952-0063 (V) 1-877-842-8461 (Toll Free)

Non-profit organization dedicated to providing support services and education to crime victims and their families as well as advocating for victims rights in the state of Maryland. Provide assistance with all types of crime including: arson, assault, breaking and entering, child abuse, destruction of property, domestic violence, DUI/DWI, elder abuse, fraud, harassment, ID theft, mortgage fraud, kidnapping, molestation, robbery/burglary/theft, sexual assault, survivors of homicide, and more.

Mason Veterans and Servicemembers Legal Clinic (M-VETS) - George Mason School of Law

3301 Fairfax Drive, MS1 G3
Arlington, VA 22201
Fmail: myets@mail.gmu.edu

703-993-8214 (V)

Email: mvets@mail.gmu.edu http://mvets.law.gmu.edu/

Mason law students provide free legal assistance to active duty military, veterans and dependent family members in a wide variety of litigation and non-litigation matters including consumer protection, family law (uncontested divorce, stepparent adoptions, name changes), landlord-tenant, contract, administrative and military law and entitlement matters, Medical and Physical Evaluation Boards, and discharge upgrade applications before Discharge Review Boards and Boards of Corrections for Military Records. M-VETS also provides assistance related to the appeal of initial (partial or total) denials of VA disability compensation claims, the filing requests for increases in ratings, and appeals to the Board of Veterans Appeals and the Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims.

National Veterans Legal Services Program

Email: <u>info@nvlsp.org</u> www.nvlsp.org 202-265-8305 (V)

Represent veterans and their dependents who are seeking benefits before the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and in court. Also provide veterans organizations, service officers and attorneys with training and educational publications to enable them to help veterans and their dependents obtain all the benefits that they deserve.

Lawyers Serving Warriors: Offer pro bono (free) legal help to veterans from all eras facing administrative separation, going through a mental evaluation board or physical evaluation board, received an inappropriate discharge characterization, filed a claim with the VA for disability compensation, or having difficulty with a claim under Traumatic Servicemembers Life Insurance. Attorneys are provided with training on laws governing the military and veterans benefits programs so they are prepared and qualified to handle such cases.

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Naval Legal Service Office (NLSO) - District Washington

Email: <u>rlsondwlegalassistance@navy.mil</u> www.jag.navy.mil/legal-services/ndw/ 202-685-5580 (V)

Customer service organization providing legal services to active duty Navy, Marine Corps, Army, Air Force, and Coast Guard service members and their dependents, reservists on active duty for 30 days or more, to retirees as resources permit and, under limited circumstances, Department of Defense (DoD) personnel deploying overseas. The primary mission is to provide legal services to support fleet operational readiness. The highest priority will be given to fleet and operational units, particularly those deployed or preparing to deploy. **Command Services** provides advice in the following subject areas: Administrative Law, Admiralty, Administrative Separations and Processing, Disciplinary Options, Freedom of Expression and Grievances, Homeland Security, Interactions with Civilian Law Enforcement Agencies, Subpoenas, JAGMAN Investigations, Military Justice, Operational Law, Personnel Matters, Standards of Conduct and Government Ethics. **Legal Assistance** can include advice on topics such as consumer/financial affairs, disaster relief support and advice, family law, foreclosure advice and counseling, immigration, notary services, powers of attorney, landlord/tenant matters, Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act, small claims court matters, victim assistance, and wills/estate planning. Predeployment services are given priority. Please contact your local office to see how it can best meet your pre-deployment needs. Serve Maryland, Northern Virginia, and Washington DC.

Neighborhood Legal Services Program (NLSP) - Veterans Legal Assistance Project

Email: veterans.project@nlsp.org www.nlsp.org/services/veterans 202-832-6577 (V)

Provides free civil legal assistance to low-income veterans in the Washington, DC metro area including: veterans affairs disability compensation benefits, military discharge updates, and other veterans benefits. The Project will also handle housing, family, public benefits, and barriers to employment issues for veterans.

Public Justice Center

1 North Charles Street, Suite 200 Baltimore, MD 21201 www.publicjustice.org 410-625-9409 (V)

Provide legal assistance to low-income clients regarding education, employment law, housing, civil rights, children's rights, torts, juvenile, and immigration.

University of Maryland - Clinical Law Program

Email: <u>JustAdvice®Project@law.umaryland.edu</u> <u>www.law.umaryland.edu/programs/clinic</u> www.law.umaryland.edu/programs/clinic/initiatives/justadvice/index.html 410-706-3295 (V)

Hours: Monday through Friday 8am to 5pm

Law students practice under supervision of law school faculty and provide legal representation to low-income clients in family law matters before district, circuit and appellate courts. Child custody, child support, divorce and protection from domestic violence.

U.S. Air Force Legal Assistance

https://aflegalassistance.law.af.mil/lass/lass.html http://legalassistance.law.af.mil/content/locator.php (Legal Services Locator) 240-612-5750 (Joint Base Andrews)

Enhances the readiness and welfare of active duty and reserve members of the Armed Forces by providing quality legal services regarding personal civil legal matters to eligible persons, and by educating eligible persons regarding their personal legal rights and responsibilities. Website features Legal Assistance Topics that review basic information on legal assistance topics commonly affect military members such as consumer affairs, family law, wills, or powers of attorney. The information provided is for educational and general information purposes only. It is not legal advice. Speak with a licensed attorney before relying on the information contained within the website to make a decision or take any action. Use the Legal Services Locator to find your nearest military legal office within the continental United States. Also offer online legal worksheets including wills, advance medical directives, and powers of attorney.

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U.S. Army Reserve Legal Command

Maj. Gen. Benjamin L. Hunton Memorial Reserve Center

910-598-8828 (V)

8791 Snouffer School Road Gaithersburg, Maryland 20879

Email: <u>usarmy.usarc.usar-legal-cmd.mbx.ops-g3@mail.mil</u>

www.usar.army.mil/Commands/Legal-Command/

Legal Assistance services are available to members of the United States Army Reserve for matters that relate to legal readiness. U.S. Army Reserve JAG units can assist you in military administrative matters including: Reprimands; Financial Liability (FLIPL) Investigations; OER/NCOER issues/appeals; Investigations; Financial Support Obligations; Correction of Military Records; Bars to Reenlistment; and Security Clearance Revocation. Assistance will also be provided for legal matters related to deployment or mobilization, including: Wills; Powers of Attorney; Family Care Powers of Attorney; Living Wills and Advance Medical Directives; Landlord/Tenant Issues; Service members Civil Relief Act (SCRA) Issues; and Employment/Reemployment Issues Related to Military Service. U.S. Army Reserve JAG units are authorized to provide consultations in civilian legal matters unrelated to military service, as resources allow. They will not provide representation for you in a civilian court. You will not receive complex estate planning services.

U.S. Coast Guard Legal Assistance - Office of Member Advocacy

www.uscq.mil/Resources/legal/LMA/Legal Assistance/

202-795-6918 (V)

Coast Guard legal assistance attorneys provide advice and counsel regarding personal legal issues to thousands of service members, dependents and retirees each year at no cost. These issues may involve family law, estate planning, consumer law, landlord-tenant relations, immigration or many other topics.

Veterans Consortium Pro Bono Program

2101 L Street NW, Suite 420

Washington, DC 20037

Email: upgrades@vetsprobono.org

Email: clinics@vetsprobono.org

Email: wvlap@vetsprobono.org

Email: vnap@vetsprobono.org

www.vetsprobono.org

1-888-838-7727, Option 3 (Appeal U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims) 202-733-3324 (Discharge Upgrade Program)

202-733-3317 (Free Legal Advice and Referral Clinics)

202-733-3329 (Women Veterans Legal Assistance Program - WVLAP)

202-733-3337 (Veteran Naturalization Assistance Program - VNAP)

Provide assistance to unrepresented veterans or their family members who have filed appeals at the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (Court). Veterans Consortium can review your case, and provide you with a free lawyer, if you meet all of the following criteria – You are a veteran (or qualifying family member of a veteran); You have received an adverse decision from the Board of Veterans' Appeals (BVA); You have appealed that BVA decision to the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims (the Court); You do not have an attorney to help you; You ask them for our assistance and you meet their program's financial eligibility guidelines; AND they can identify at least one meritorious issue to be argued before the Court. Program can also provide assistance with discharge upgrades.

Women's Law Center of Maryland

102 West Pennsylvania Avenue, Suite 100 Towson, MD 21204

1-877-422-9500 (Employment Law Hotline)

Email: admin@wlcmd.org

1-800-845-8550 (Family Law Hotline)

410-321-8761 (V)

www.wlcmd.org

Provides free legal services in the areas of family law, domestic violence and employment law. Office is by appointment only – no walk-ins.