

To Idaho Pro Bono Commission Members and Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program:

I am in the Idaho Army National Guard JAG Office and have been tasked to assemble a state wide program of specially trained attorneys, with their emphasis on providing pro bono assistance to the soldiers, and their families, who are being deployed for up to 400 days in Iraq starting this September. To date the response has been overwhelming. I initially set a goal of 30 - 40 attorneys state wide. I have had outstanding cooperation from members of the bench and local bar presidents. We now have over 140 attorneys state wide who have agreed to provide assistance. The participation by judicial district is as follows:

First District: 19	Fourth District: 51	Seventh District: 17
Second District: 7	Fifth District: 32	
Third District: 7	Sixth District: 10	TOTAL: 143

The attorneys received training regarding the various protections the Service Member's Civil Relief Act provides (procedural, financial, and other protections), the provisions of the United Serviceman's Employment and Re-employment Rights Act (anti-military discrimination regarding current employment, re-employment following military duty and enforcement mechanisms), Family Law Issues and several other topics. The exact content of the training is available through the Bar CLE Accreditation office.

It is anticipated that the majority of the requests can be handled with various forms, phone calls to proper entities and a few letters. We are not asking that any attorney take on criminal or extensive child custody litigation on a pro bono basis. Those issues, if the volunteer attorney decides to handle them at all, are up to a fee agreement between the attorney and the service member, we do ask that the fees be discounted.

The overwhelming response is certainly in part to the extraordinary assistance of Idaho Volunteer Lawyers Program (IVLP), the members of the bench and the local bar officers. This response may have supplanted your efforts in encouraging state firms in creating a pro bono policy. If that is the case, we apologize. However, we are very pleased and excited with the response we have received.

This program has been announced at our Yellow Ribbon ceremonies across the state. (The Yellow Ribbon is a one day event held in various locations across the state, where soldiers and their families are advised of the various benefits and programs available to assist them during the deployment.) The announcement always brings a sincere round of applause showing the appreciation our personnel feel for the Bar's commitment to them and their families.

Procedure - the clients contact LTC Dunlap (208 734 5885), I screen them and make the referral to the attorney. About a dozen referrals have been made (9/17). The unit has been in Mississippi since mid-September and will go to Iraq in Mid-November.

I hope this information is of value to your program. The pro bono spirit is alive and well in the State of Idaho Bar.

LTC David M Dahle