

## Oregon State Bar Military Assistance Panel

Program Overview: The program was formed in 2003 at the direction of the Chief Justice of the Oregon Supreme Court and the Attorney General of Oregon. The program is organized based upon the LAMP program from the American Bar Association. The program provides pro bono legal assistance to active duty military personnel that are residents of Oregon. The aim of the program is to pair soldiers in need of legal assistance and Oregon lawyers on the Military Assistance Panel (MAP).

How it works: The Judge Advocates that handle legal assistance in the Oregon State Adjutant General's Office pre-qualify soldiers in need of assistance based on criteria of the program and established guidelines. The soldier is given an "MR" number that indicates their qualification for the program. The soldier then makes contact with the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service. The call center is operated by the Oregon State Bar then makes the referral to a lawyer who has submitted an application to serve on the panel. The first hour with the lawyer is pro-bono. Any following services are between the lawyer and the client as any fee. Most of the cases are handled on a pro-bono basis to conclusion of the matter. Cases are tracked through the Oregon State Bar Lawyer Referral Service.

Presently one hundred and twenty (120) lawyers have volunteered to be on the panel. The Oregon State Bar has stepped up recruitment efforts to get more volunteers. The National Guard in Oregon is expected to mobilize and deploy the Middle East in 2009. That will increase the number of active duty soldiers by about three thousand five hundred (3,500).

Lawyers who volunteer for the program must complete a questionnaire and submit the same to the Lawyer Referral Service office. They are entitled to free CLE that is offered by streaming video through the Oregon State Bar's website.

The program administrator remarks that the program has been successful but notably that this program is operated on a small scale. There are no major military installations in Oregon and the personnel that this program serves are National Guard service members mobilized and deployed over seas. Further, the program utilizes a call center for the Lawyer Referral Service that also handles the referrals for a number of other pre-existing programs. The program administrator could not isolate the costs of operating the Military Assistance Panel because it is intertwined with other programs.

