

# NEVADA ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE OF MILITARY LEGAL ASSISTANCE CELEBRATES FIVE YEARS OF SERVICE

BY NIC DANNA, ESQ.

**Every day, the freedoms and liberties we enjoy should be cherished and celebrated. Many of these liberties are in large part due to the personal sacrifices made by our military servicemembers and veterans, past and present. They have helped forge our country, protect its residents and fight for our rights. As a professional community, Nevada's lawyers owe it to servicemembers with legal needs to provide high-quality counsel—free of charge—so that they can focus on their duties.**

This is where the Attorney General's Office of Military Legal Assistance (OMLA) steps in. Since 2015, OMLA has provided active duty servicemembers across the state access to free, civil legal services. The OMLA is the first attorney general-led, public-private partnership in the country to provide these services. OMLA strives to bolster military readiness for servicemembers who face the challenges of continuous deployments and change of stations. These servicemembers can now feel at ease knowing this program can manage legal affairs in their absence, allowing them to stay focused on their missions.

The program works by pairing servicemembers with pro bono, private legal counsel for civil matters, including consumer fraud, military rights, landlord/tenant, creditor/debtor and immigration issues. The program has partnered with the State Bar of Nevada, county bars and numerous statewide legal organizations to recruit more than 150 local attorneys willing to represent servicemembers and their families free of charge. The program also works with Nevada Legal Services and in partnership with local pro bono legal assistance programs, such as the Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, to provide monthly legal clinics. These clinics provide free wills, powers of attorney and legal advice to veterans.

In the past five years, the OMLA has assisted more than 4,000 servicemembers and veterans. The program was also named a "Best Practice Program" by the Department of Defense and recommended for duplication in states throughout the country. We are grateful to our partners and volunteer attorneys for their tireless commitment to our military community.

During the COVID-19 pandemic and the resulting economic recession, OMLA will be counted on more than ever by men and women in uniform. Legal assistance has become even more critical for our struggling military families. To make access to counsel easier during these socially distant times, OMLA launched a virtual online platform to provide pro bono legal assistance

in September 2020. Nevada military families are now able to meet with pro bono attorneys by teleconference or telephone by signing up on the program's website or contacting the office directly.

Private pro bono attorneys will be a critical need for this program going forward. If you would like to volunteer pro bono hours to the program or would like to donate to help further our mission, please contact Program Specialist Ryan McDonald at 775-687-2147 or [rmcDonald@ag.nv.gov](mailto:rmcDonald@ag.nv.gov). You can view more information about the program by visiting [nvagomla.ag.nv.gov](http://nvagomla.ag.nv.gov).

**NIC DANNA** became director for the newly created Attorney General's Office of Military Legal Assistance in 2015. Danna is a former prosecutor for the Los Angeles City Attorney's Office. He served as a prosecutor in both the general criminal division and safe neighborhood and gang unit. He is a major in the Nevada Air National Guard and is a combat veteran of Afghanistan. Danna graduated from the University of Southern California and Whittier Law School. He resides in Reno with his wife, Shelagh.

