

Military Assistance Panel-Protecting the Protectors *Legal Assistance in Oregon*

The Oregon State Bar's Military Assistance Panel connects Oregon lawyers with Oregon's deployed servicemembers and their dependents in need of legal help.

Since 2003 the Oregon State Bar has been addressing legal concerns that Oregon service members may face immediately before, after, and during deployment. Federal and state legislation provide additional legal protection to persons entering or called to active duty in the US armed forces. Information on the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and state laws protecting service men and women is available here.

Although many military personnel and their families are aware of the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act (SCRA), they may not have the legal expertise or financial resources available to take advantage of the Act's important provisions. The Oregon State Bar administers a referral panel that lists lawyers willing to help. Our volunteer lawyers have been trained to provide legal assistance primarily relating to the SCRA. Many volunteers are also willing to assist with family law, consumer/credit law, real property/landlord-tenant law, and estate planning issues.

Volunteer lawyers expect to give at least one hour of advice and counseling to a client free of charge. It is up to the lawyer and client to decide whether to continue the lawyer/client relationship beyond the pro bono consultation.

How It Works:

To participate, servicemembers –

- 1. Contact the Oregon Army National Guard at (971) 355-3455 for an authorization (military reference or "MR") number; and then,**
- 2. Contact the Oregon State Bar's Lawyer Referral Service at (503) 684-3763 for a referral to a participating lawyer; and then,**
- 3. Contact the participating lawyer.**