WHERE’S A LAWYER WHEN YOU NEED ONE?

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What do lawyers offer?

- Advocates
- Can be crucial in veteran outreach
- Provides representation in contested or complex matters or when veteran needs assistance presenting the case.

What examples do you have of attorneys being beneficial to your pilot site? Have there been challenges?
To what extent do the child support issues facing veterans require a lawyer’s intervention?

- Develop trust between veterans and child support professionals
- Help veterans understand the law
  - Child support vs. child custody/visitation
  - Calculation of child support
  - How to modify child support
  - Arrears

To what extent do the child support issues facing veterans require a lawyer’s intervention?

- Help veterans navigate the child support and judicial systems
  - Challenge county/court determination of benefits and imputed income
  - Challenge or bring modification requests
  - Represent a veteran at rule to show cause or bench warrant
  - Navigate complex interstate child support issues
- Advocate for and develop a veterans child support initiative
What are the various legal service delivery models in the sites?

- Legal services (Renato)
- Pro Bono representation (Sara)
- Direct representation (Jeff)
- Others

What are the effective forums for providing legal advice to veterans with child support issues?

- Difficulty is finding access points
- Veterans child support issues must be addressed collaboratively and holistically
- Some options:
  - Legal clinics
  - Stan Downs
  - Local VA Medical Centers
  - Law Day
  - Local Bar Association initiatives
How can sites recruit attorney volunteers?

Challenges:
- Finding lawyers that understand veterans, child support issues (both in-state and interstate)
- Providing training and support

Possible options:
- Volunteer attorneys
- Bar associations
- Law firms and in-house counsels
- Volunteer attorney programs
- Solo and small firm practices
- JAG offices
- Retired attorneys
- Legal services offices
Can law schools be effective partners?

- YES
- How?
  - UCI Model: making law students junior associates
  - Law school externs
  - Law students performing pro bono service
  - Equal Justice Works fellows
  - Law school legal clinics

What funding sources are available?

- Bar Foundations
- SSVF funding
- Grants from other funding organizations
- Law firms
Meaningful assistance to veterans in child support matters has many components.

Lawyers are one piece of that puzzle.

It takes a collective group effort.

We have an opportunity to make a real difference in the lives of veterans, it takes all of us to find innovative ways to make that difference.

### Assistance through the American Bar Association

- **Commission on Homelessness and Poverty (CHP)**
  - [www.americanbar.org/homeless](http://www.americanbar.org/homeless)

- **Coordinating Committee on Veterans Benefits and Services (CCVBS)**
  - [www.americanbar.org/veterans](http://www.americanbar.org/veterans)

- **Standing Committee on Legal Aid and Indigent Defendants (SCLAID)**
  - [www.americanbar.org/sclaid](http://www.americanbar.org/sclaid)