Military Legal Assistance Issues:
Special Needs Topics, Sexual Assault Victims, and Pro Se Programs

3.5 Credit Hours of CLE has been requested

WHAT: This is an educational program for lawyers on current developments in the areas of military and veterans' law. The session will include a variety of military legal assistance issues: special needs topics that include educational and school related issues, special needs trusts, and guardianship; the military’s Special Victims’ Counsel (SVC) program that represents sexual assault victims, including children who have suffered sexual abuse; and pro se programs that help with divorce, name changes, and probate.

See page 2 for the detailed Program Schedule.

WHO: This program is designed for military attorneys working in legal assistance as well as civilian lawyers whose practices involve military-connected clients or issues.

WHERE: Webinar

WHEN: Wednesday, March 27, 2019, 9:45 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. ET

HOW: Must register in advance online by visiting http://ambar.org/lampcle. Registration deadline is March 26, 2019.

COST: $70 for this 3.5 hour CLE session.

FREE for all military attorneys (Judge Advocates), military paralegals, and civilians employed by the military.

MATERIALS: Participants are encouraged to download CLE program materials, beginning March 25. Registrants will be emailed instructions for downloading materials.
Program Schedule – Wednesday, March 27, 2019

9:45 a.m. – 1:30 p.m. ET

Moderator: Gregory Ulrich, Ulrich Law PLC, ABA LAMP Special Advisor

9:45–10:45 a.m. – Military Families with Special Needs: Educational and School Related Issues

The military established the Exceptional Family Member Program (EFMP) to ease burdens of a move for military members who have a dependent—spouse, child, or dependent parent—with special needs. However, more could be done to address legal issues faced by these families. This presentation will address some of the common educational and school related issues that military families face and how the law can help them.

- Col (Ret.) Elizabeth L. Schuchs-Gopaul, San Antonio, TX
- Maj Carolyn Carmody, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, TX

10:45–11:30 a.m. – Special Needs Trusts and Guardianship

This session will focus on when (and when not) to use a supplemental/special needs trust as part of the estate plan, including how to create one as a JAG legal assistance attorney using DL Wills. This will also provide an overview of the legal and practical aspects of the guardianship process in Texas.

- Alison M. Packard, Law Office of Alison M. Packard, San Antonio, TX
- Kay M. Perry, JBSA-Lackland, TX

11:30–11:45 a.m. – Break

11:45 a.m.–12:30 p.m. – Military’s Special Victims’ Counsel: Representing Sexual Assault Victims

The military has a groundbreaking program whereby eligible victims of sexual assault are provided an attorney, called a Special Victims’ Counsel (SVC), to provide legal representation throughout the military justice process. A unique aspect is that SVCs may enter into attorney-client relationships with eligible children who have suffered sexual abuse. The presenters will provide an overview of the SVC program and discuss some unique issues that SVCs face with child representation.

- Lt Col Thomas Finley, JBSA-Randolph, TX
- Maj Ashley Norman, JBSA-Lackland, TX
- Maj Carolyn Carmody, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, TX

12:30–1:30 p.m. – Military Pro Se Programs: Divorce, Name Change, and Probate

Joint Base San Antonio offers three pro se programs to eligible clients: divorce, name changes, and probate programs. The pro se programs offer a unique opportunity for legal professionals to support the Joint Base San Antonio community. Attendees outside of San Antonio will benefit from discussion of the benefits of pro se programs, advice on how to set up a program, and guidance on other resources to help pro se clients.

- Safiya Porter, JBSA-Lackland, TX
- Bradley Mitchell, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, TX
- James Bivens, Jr., Paralegal Specialist, JBSA-Fort Sam Houston, TX

Registration Deadline: March 26, 2019

CLE CREDIT: The ABA will seek 3.5 hours of CLE credit in 60-minute states, and 4.2 hours of CLE credit for this program in 50-minute states. Credit hours are estimated and are subject to each state’s approval and credit rounding rules. Please visit the program website at https://www.americanbar.org/groups/legal_assistance_military_personnel/events_cle/morning-webinar/ for program CLE details or visit www.americanbar.org/mcle for general information on CLE at the ABA.