Wednesday, October 9, 2019
8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. PT / 11:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET

Hot Topics for Military Legal Assistance:
Child Custody and the Feres Doctrine

3 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 first portion of this session will focus on international and interstate child custody matters that impact military families. This session will then address the Feres Doctrine, focusing on its history, expansions, and criticisms regarding restrictions for servicemember lawsuits.

See page 2 for the detailed program schedule and CLE credit details.

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, October 9, 2019
8:45 a.m.–12:00 p.m. PT / 11:45 a.m.–3:00 p.m. ET

HOW: Must register in advance online by visiting http://ambar.org/lampcle. Registration deadline is October 8, 2019.

COST: $60 for this 3-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 October 8. Registrants will be emailed instructions for downloading materials.
Program Schedule – Wednesday, October 9, 2019

8:45 a.m. to 12:00 p.m. PT / 11:45 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. ET

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

8:45–10:45 a.m. PT – Good to Go: Interstate and International Child Custody Impacting Military Families

This session will review interstate jurisdictional issues, military custody statutes, along with avoiding pitfalls in addressing child custody disputes. This will also address international child custody issues and enforcement, with attention to the Hague Convention on Civil Aspects of Child Abduction, and preventative measures to avoid wrongful removals and retentions.

⋅ Patricia Apy, Paras, Apy & Reiss, P.C., Red Bank, NJ

10:45–11:00 a.m. PT – Break

11:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m. PT – The Feres Doctrine: Restrictions for Servicemember Lawsuits

Under the Feres doctrine, a policy stemming from the Supreme Court case of Feres v. United States in 1950, servicemembers are categorically banned from filing suits for harm incurred while on duty. The denial of judicial review extends to non-combat-related injuries such as sexual assault and medical malpractice. Since its inception, courts and commentators have condemned the doctrine, arguing that it is unjust to close the courthouse door to the men and women who preserve our freedom. Still, the policy remains controlling Supreme Court precedent. This session will explore the origin of the doctrine, its expansion over the years, and the withering criticism calling for its repeal.

⋅ Dr. Dwight Stirling, Center for Law and Military Policy, Huntington Beach, CA

Registration Deadline: October 8, 2019

CLE CREDIT: The ABA will seek 3 hours of CLE credit in 60-minute states, and 3.6 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/ for program CLE details or visit www.americanbar.org/mcle for general information on CLE at the ABA.