Created by the Legislature in 1927, the State Bar of California is an administrative arm of the California Supreme Court. Its mission is to serve the people of California through careful oversight of the legal profession. The State Bar’s primary functions are:

- Licensing the 250,000 attorneys in California
- Regulating the profession and practice of law
- Enforcing the Rules of Professional Conduct and State Bar Act for attorneys
- Disciplining attorneys who violate rules and laws
- Administering the California Bar Exam
- Advancing access to justice
- Promoting diversity and inclusion in the legal system

To inform the court about your military service, you can fill out an optional Military Status Form (MIL-100). You, your attorney, family member, friend, or advocate can fill out this form if you:

- Are a current or former military member
- Are in the reserves or National Guard
- Have combat service or no combat service
- Have an honorable or dishonorable discharge

You can submit your completed MIL-100 form to the clerk, judge, or your attorney, at any point during your case. For more information and to access the MIL-100 form, search “California Courts MIL-100,” from your browser.

Information in this pamphlet is valid as of October 2019.
LEGAL ASSISTANCE FOR THOSE WHO SERVE OR HAVE SERVED IN THE MILITARY

FOR ACTIVE SERVICE MEMBERS

If you are an active service member and need legal help, a good place to start is with an armed forces legal assistance office. These offices are set up to serve your needs. You can use the Armed Forces Legal Assistance Online Locator: legalassistance.law.af.mil.

These offices can help you apply for benefits available through the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act, a federal law that provides safeguards to members on active duty status in the area of financial management, including rental agreements, security deposits, evictions, installment contracts, credit card interest rates, mortgages, civil judicial proceedings, income tax payments, and more.

Those serving in California Military Departments, including the California National Guard, may contact the Legal Support Command: www.ca-jag.us.

FOR VETERANS

Homelessness Issues

> Veterans Justice Outreach Program
  www.va.gov/homeless/vjo.asp

Part of the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs, this program provides direct outreach, assessment, and case management for justice-involved veterans in local courts and jails and works with local justice system partners. The program cannot provide legal services but can refer you to legal assistance organizations in your community.

Consumer & Financial Issues

> California Attorney General’s Military Consumer Protection Section
  https://oag.ca.gov/consumers/general/military

Part of the Office of the Attorney General, this group investigates and prosecutes businesses that engage in deceptive practices targeting veterans, members of the armed forces, and their families. It also provides information on military consumer protection issues, including scam alerts. You can report businesses by submitting a complaint.

> Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, Office of Servicemember Affairs
  www.consumerfinance.gov (search for OSA) or call 855-411-2372

The Office of Servicemember Affairs works to help military families and veterans overcome financial challenges by providing educational resources, monitoring complaints, and working with other agencies to solve problems.

> Military Consumer
  www.militaryconsumer.gov

A joint initiative of numerous organizations including the Federal Trade Commission and Department of Defense, Military Consumer empowers retired and active-duty service members regarding financial and consumer issues.

General Legal Issues/Other Resources

> State Bar of California
  www.calbar.ca.gov or call 866-44-CA-LAW

Search for "resources veterans" or "resources active military" on the State Bar website for updated information about organizations providing legal services to military service members, veterans, and their families.

For information about lawyer referral services in California, go to www.calbar.ca.gov/ Lawyer-Referral or call 800-843-9053 (Outside California: 415-538-2250)

> California Association of County Veterans Service Officers
  www.cacvso.org or call 844-SERV-VET

County Veterans Service Officers play a critical role in the veteran’s advocacy system in California. They provide information about county-specific services and advocacy for veterans, their dependents, and survivors.

> California Department of Veterans Affairs
  www.calvet.ca.gov or call 800-952-5626 or (TDD) 1-800-324-5966

The California Department of Veterans Affairs serves California veterans and their families to ensure that they get the state and federal benefits and services they have earned and deserve. They also provide assistance with benefits, health care, housing, education, employment, and more.

> Swords to Plowshares
  www.swords-to-plowshares.org or call 415-252-4788

Swords to Plowshares assists veterans with issues related to pensions, mental health exams, military records, benefits, and more. They also provide online self-help guides.

> Veterans Legal Institute
  www.vetslegal.com or call 714-852-3492

The Veterans Legal Institute provides pro bono legal assistance to homeless, at-risk, disabled, and low-income current and former service members to eradicate barriers to housing, health care, education, and employment, and foster self-sufficiency.

> eBenefits
  www.ebenefits.va.gov or call 800-827-1000

Affiliated with U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, eBenefits provides legal assistance related to veteran benefits and more.

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VETERANS TREATMENT COURTS

Veterans Treatment Courts resolve criminal cases for veterans through treatment and support in more than 30 counties in California. Through these courts, veterans participate in programs tailored to their needs. Participants meet frequently with a judicial officer, other veterans, treatment providers, mentors, and support teams. For more information, go to the California Courts website, www.courts.ca.gov and search “veterans courts.”