

10 March 2010

INFORMATION PAPER

SUBJECT: Legal Assistance Eligibility for Retirees

1. Purpose: To provide information on the services provided by the Fort Belvoir Legal Assistance Program to military retirees.
2. The mission of the Ft Belvoir legal assistance office is to provide advice and representation to clients in matters regarding their personal legal affairs. Case types typically include: wills and estates, family law (including the preparation of separation agreements and divorce pleadings), landlord tenant issues, consumer law cases, rights of military members, bankruptcy, state and Federal taxation, and other types of cases. In 2009, our office provided more than 4500 legal services to our community, and filed more than 1100 state and Federal tax returns for clients. In the process, we rendered more than \$8M in total value of legal services to the community.
3. The legal assistance program is founded in the US Code at 10 USC 1044. This law, and the implementing regulations published by all of the military services, state that active duty servicemembers, military retirees, mobilizing reservists, and their dependents are eligible for legal assistance. In 2009, more than 25% of our clients were military retirees. And although our office has temporarily suspended family law (divorce and separation) services for retirees, we still provide support in all other practice areas, including estate planning, landlord tenant, consumer law, and other matters. Please visit your Fort Belvoir legal assistance office with any questions regarding this important issue.

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