

November 8, 2013

LAW FOR VETERANS WEBSITE LAUNCHES TODAY

PHOENIX – The Arizona Supreme Court today announced the www.LawForVeterans.org website, a one-stop clearinghouse for access to legal and other important veteran benefit information. Through this site, legal information, articles, resources and forms can be accessed, providing our nation's veterans critical help they may need.

The Arizona Supreme Court partnered with the Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education and the State Bar of Arizona and its Military Legal Assistance Committee to launch the site in time for Veterans' Day.

The site features ten specialty subject areas ranging from identity theft to employment law. There are sections with helpful Q&A topics as well as a place to ask legal questions, find a lawyer, or locate other resources veterans might need. The interactive website will be the public face of a broader support network. More than 270 legal professionals have volunteered to respond to questions and help match veterans with the resources they need.

"Veterans' Day 2013 marks the initial public launch of the site, but we realize the site itself is a platform upon which we will build and add content, based on the needs and input of veterans and service providers that stand ready to assist them," said Chief Justice Rebecca White Berch.

"Courts and the legal community are recognizing that we can better serve certain populations by tailoring website content and court services to meet their needs," said Vice Chief Justice Scott Bales. "Our veterans deserve this help – we don't want them hurting, alone or in trouble with nowhere to turn."

Many veterans struggle with reintegration into civilian life and some find themselves involved in the criminal justice system. Others may encounter roadblocks like claims denials, insurance problems, family law issues, or hardships related to physical, mental or substance abuse challenges.

Brigadier General Gregg Maxon (retired) works as a special advisor to the Administrative Office of the Courts to help jurisdictions wishing to set up veterans' courts. He was a key advocate in the planning and development of www.LawForVeterans.org.

Data gathered by Maxon shows:

- 2.4 million men and women served in Iraq and Afghanistan
- 1.44 million are now eligible for VA health care

- 774,000 have obtained VA health care
- Of those receiving treatment, the top three diagnoses are:
 - 68% Musculoskeletal ailments
 - 52% Mental disorders such as PTSD, depression, substance abuse
 - 51% Symptoms, signs and ill-defined conditions

“A unified treatment and rehabilitation approach brings better results. Through partnerships with the Department of Veterans’ Affairs and local, state or national non-profits and community-based organizations, we can honor our veterans with the resources they deserve,” General Maxon explained.

Businesses, government agencies, chambers of commerce, associations, and non-profits are encouraged to add a link to www.LawForVeterans.org.

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Additional Contacts for Reporters

Arizona Foundation for Legal Services & Education: 602-340-7366
State Bar of Arizona: 602-340-7335

Heather Murphy
Director of Communications
Arizona Supreme Court and
Administrative Office of the Courts
1501 West Washington Street
Phoenix, AZ 85007

602-452-3656 desk
602-448-6629 after hours/emergencies
hmurphy@courts.az.gov