

## FBA VETERANS & MILITARY LAW SECTION

### MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Aprile 15, 2025

#### **Attendees:**

- Harvey Weiner, Courtney Richards, David Harding, Andrew McConville, Dylan Perry, Jen Tomchak, Carol Scott, Amanda Myers, Mike McCarthy

-March '25 Meeting Minutes are approved.

#### **National Sections & Divisions Liaison**

- Jen Tomchak is our liaison; guest speaker
- Judges are interested in our section – programming (panels, etc.)
  - Michael Allen
  - Thomas Phillips (Dist. Of Eastern Tennessee)
  - Harvey will reach out to the both judges about involvement

#### **CLE**

- Set for April 2025
- Registration is open. Will be marketed soon.
- Approved for CLE credit. A fee is associated with non-FBA members. Will be saved for On-Demand CLE credit.

#### **DEI**

- Andrew McConville attended the FBA's webinar on DEI
- The presenter emphasized that the current administration has executed two executive orders to suppress DEI activities
  - US AG is tasked with finding certain organizations engaged in "illegal" DEI; Unclear the extent that the DOJ will prosecute these organizations
  - It's also unclear what is "illegal" DEI
    - Organizations considering risk mitigation could change DEI preferences – focus on characteristics that are not solely focused on race, gender, religion, etc. Focus on what actions individuals have taken to overcome adversity.

#### **Federal Lawyer – Winter 2026 Edition**

- September 1, 2025 is the deadline for initial submission
  - Publication is January 2026
- Amanda is going to write an article on veteran's rights
- Harvey is writing an article

- An article was submitted regarding the history of women in the Air Force – seemed too historical
- Three additional article ideas have been submitted
- Multiple judicial profiles have been proposed as well

### **National Pro Bono Efforts**

- In light of the four law firms who have committed ~\$1B in pro bono efforts in support of the current administration's priorities (one of which is veteran services), is there a way to focus their pro bono commitments through our reach?
  - Wills for Veterans is an option

### **VA IG Report**

- Review PACT ACT cases – of the 131,000 cases, 26,100 had incorrect effective dates.
  - 2,300 cases were completely so poorly that it was impossible to determine the effective date.
- HB2828 – Proposed to keep DOGE out of veteran's personal information.

### **Awards Program & Panel Program**

- May 2<sup>nd</sup> deadline for Panel proposals for the annual meeting
- Email tomorrow with details about the Awards Program