

FBA VETERANS & MILITARY LAW SECTION  
MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

February 17, 2026

**Attendees:**

Courtney Ramos, Andrew McConville, Kaitlyn Degnan, Harvey Weiner, Carol Scott, Kevin Fitch, Mike McCarthy, and T.J. McGrath.

**Welcome**

- January 2026 Meeting Minutes were approved.

**CLE Status/Co-Sponsorship of Events**

- Courtney presented the following CLE co-sponsorship opportunities:
  - 17 June 2026 – Widener Law School - Army Heritage Foundation – Red Cross Presentation – Law of War. Requesting Lieutenant General (R) Charles Pede, 40<sup>th</sup> Judge Advocate General of the United States Army, to speak. We will advertise on our Section’s website indicating that we are a co-sponsor of this event. Courtney will find out if the event is being held in DE or PA. Anyone who can attend in-person is encouraged to do so.
  - 14 April 2026 – University of Baltimore - Annual Veterans Legal Assistance Conference – Section has previously been an organizer / sponsor. No monetary obligation for this event. There is also an opportunity to increase membership and free publicity for the Section. Courtney will find out about CLE credits for attendance and if the event will be held strictly in-person or available remotely.
  - Posse Comitatus – Courtney conveyed that there have been positive responses on this topic; however, no one has been willing to commit as a panelist or presenter. TJ suggested contacting retirees about possible involvement. This event will be tabled for now to pursue other CLE event ideas.

**Membership Update**

- Courtney and Mike provided an update on membership totals: 165 students, 215 professionals members, 380 total members.

### **Update from the Hill**

- Carol discussed California's new law, SB-694 (The Veteran Benefits Protection Act), which cracks down on "claim sharks"—unaccredited, for-profit companies charging veterans high fees for VA disability claims assistance. The legislation prohibits charging for these services, voids illegal contracts, and protects veterans' data.
- Carol also said that the House of Representatives is attempting to pass legislation that would steer veterans out of VHA and into community care.

### **Other Military Law Updates**

- Harvey provided an update on the Hencley case re: sovereign immunity for government contractors, which was argued before SCOTUS in November 2025.

### **Key Dates**

- 27-28 March 2026 – Leadership Summit. Courtney and Carol plan to attend. Harvey and Mike encouraged anyone else who is able to attend to do so, as we have budgeted for this event.
- 17-19 September 2026 Annual Conference (Richmond, VA)
- Feb 2027 – Under construction - conference in Tampa (looking for topics, speakers, and panelists)

### **Miscellaneous Items**

- Harvey proposed a luncheon with local Section members in Boston in April, as we did last spring. We would include student members from the greater Boston area.

### **Naval Justice School Award**

- Andrew McConville provided an update on possible support/sponsorship of an award for a deserving graduate of the Naval Justice School (NJS) Basic Lawyer Class (BLC).
- NJS has shown interest and appreciation in the Section's possible sponsorship of an award. Andrew will follow up with NJS' Commanding Officer and the Naval Justice School Foundation in the near future to further discuss details for a possible award.