

FBA VETERANS & MILITARY LAW SECTION

MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

July 21, 2026

Attendees:

- Courtney Ramos, David Harding, Andrew McConville, Dylan Perry, Kaitlyn Degnan, Andrew Wondolowski, Kevin Fitch, TJ McGrath, Harvey Weiner, Desiree Castillo, Caitlin Samson

Welcome

- June 2026 Meeting Minutes were approved.

CLE Status

- 17 June 2026 – Widener Law School – Army Heritage Foundation – Red Cross Presentation – Law of War (Lieutenant General (R) Charles Pede, 40th Judge Advocate General of the US Army). This event was completed and was a success, although there was less of a turnout compared to previous years.

Budget

- There was a discussion about possible Section sponsorship of the Feb 2027 Labor and Employment Law Seminar.
 - Topics to be covered at the seminar include attorney wellness, and the Attorney Professional Exchange program.
 - We discussed why the VML Section would sponsor another Section's seminar where there is no readily apparent connection to VML.
 - No decision was made regarding possible VML Section sponsorship for the 2027 Labor and Employment Law Seminar, but it will be kept on the agenda for discussion about possible sponsorship/collaboration in the future.

Key Dates

- 17-19 September 2026 Annual Conference (Richmond, VA) – David and Andrew McConville will be attending.

Miscellaneous Items

- Fall Luncheons for Executive Committee Members and Students

- After discussion, it was decided that separate luncheons/get togethers would be scheduled for Executive Committee members in September 2026 and law school students in October/November (FY2027).
 - The purpose is to get law students involved in the VML Section and for members to meet each other.
 - The venue for the law student luncheon should be in a geographic area with the greatest concentration of law schools. David and Andrew M. will work on identifying a location, setting a date, and getting the word out to local colleges to encourage maximum attendance.
 - The Section has been approved for \$750 to fund the Executive Committee luncheon in September. Dylan will work on requesting allocation of budget funds for the law student event in October/November.
- After Action & Advocacy (late 2027 or 2028)
 - Objective is to develop a professional development and mentorship event for Judge Advocates/young lawyers featuring a former TJAG or other senior military legal leaders.
- “From the Bench: The Hague and Harrowing Tales of International Justice” (early/mid 2028)
 - Possible CLE (panel style) with former Military Judges.

Membership Update

- The Section gained 2 professional members in June.

Legal Updates

- David provided an update on the Take Care of American Veterans Act, a comprehensive legislative package that directs federal funds to veteran priorities. After intense debate due to funding, the bill was withdrawn in the Senate.