

NEW LAW CLERK POSITION FOR VETERANS

I want the Office of Attorney General to be a model employer when it comes to providing employment opportunities for veterans.

We recently established a new volunteer law clerk position for a law school student who previously served in the military. This position will work on issues related to military personnel and veterans.

I encourage laws students with military backgrounds to apply. Students interested in this position and seeking more information can visit <http://www.atg.wa.gov/Careers/AttorneysClerks/Volunteers.aspx>.

The Office of Attorney General employs about 1,100 people and is committed to being an employer that supports our country's veterans, military personnel, and their families. Over 80 of our employees have former military experience or are current members of the Guard or Reserve.



Attorney General Ferguson (left) at the Veterans Day celebration at the Tumwater office.

CELEBRATING VETERANS DAY

The Attorney General's Office held its annual Veterans Day celebration in November. The event honored all veterans, and particularly our employees who served in the Armed Forces or who are part of a military family.

This year's Veterans Day celebration focused on how we are all part of the broader military family. Attorney General's Office employees and their family members shared their military experiences of serving in places such as Vietnam, Germany, and Afghanistan. Our office also honored the father of an AGO employee who served in the US Army Air Corps during WWII.

I come from a family of veterans. My father was in the Navy, both my grandfathers were veterans, and many of my uncles fought in WWII. My family's experience instilled in me a respect and appreciation for military service. The event reinforced how important it is to stop and honor the sacrifice and service of those family members, friends, loved ones, neighbors, and fellow country men and women who have served or are currently serving our country.



WASHINGTON STATE ATTORNEY GENERAL'S OFFICE

VETERAN & MILITARY UPDATE

WINTER 2013



REACHING OUT TO VETERANS & MILITARY FAMILIES

We celebrate Veterans Day to honor those who served our country in uniform. It is important that we honor the sacrifice and service of those family members, friends, loved ones, neighbors, and fellow country men and women who have served or are currently serving our country.

Serving our veterans and military families is one of my top priorities as Attorney General. Upon taking office in January, I launched a new initiative specifically focused on veteran and military-related issues. You can read more about this new initiative in my previous update available at www.atg.wa.gov/VeteranMilitaryResources.aspx.

An important part of our work includes reaching out to veterans and engaging the community of veteran service providers. We are working to make sure veterans and military families know the Attorney General's Office has resources available for them.

We have been at meetings of veterans' groups and community resource fairs all over the state, including Tacoma, Seattle, Yakima, Moses Lake, Longview, Chehalis, and Marysville. We help answer questions and refer veterans to resources they need.

This update is the second of regular newsletters about the efforts of the Attorney General's Office to assist veterans. This edition focuses on a new *Military and Veterans Legal Resource Guide* and the upcoming legislative session.

As Attorney General, it is an honor to be able to serve Washington's veterans, military personnel, and their families.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob".

Bob Ferguson
Washington Attorney General

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ATTORNEY GENERAL DEPLOYS NEW **MILITARY & VETERANS LEGAL RESOURCE GUIDE**

Attorney General Ferguson presenting the new Military & Veteran Legal Resource Guide.

designed to help inform and educate veterans, military personnel and their families about the legal rights and protections that may be available to them.

I recently had the pleasure of presenting the new Military and Veterans Legal Resource Guide to the 364th Expeditionary Sustainment Command, an Army Reserve component headquartered in Marysville. In support of Operation New Dawn and Operation Enduring Freedom, the 364th was deployed overseas from September 2011 to July 2012. It was an honor to be able to talk directly with these soldiers, answer their questions, and provide a resource to connect them to available legal resources.

If you or someone you know would like a copy, the new Military and Veterans Legal Resource Guide is available online at www.atg.wa.gov/VeteranMilitaryResources.aspx. You can also contact our office to request a hardcopy be mailed to you.

LEGISLATIVE CORNER: STATE PROTECTIONS FOR VETERANS AND MILITARY FAMILIES

As Attorney General, I can serve veterans and military personnel by encouraging the development of policies that strengthen the legal protections available for veterans and military families in Washington state.

The 2014 legislative session begins on January 13. My legislative agenda for this upcoming session includes a bill that directly affects military families and veterans:

STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC PROTECTIONS

Currently, state law does not provide the same protections for service members called to state active duty as federal law provides for those called to active federal service. This bill would make state

law consistent with federal law for the purposes of enforcing the Servicemember Civil Relief Act. This Act is one of the major laws providing economic protections for military personnel called to active duty.

For more information on this proposal and to see the rest of my 2014 legislative priorities, please visit our website at www.atg.wa.gov/2014Legislation.aspx. I will report back in my next newsletter on our progress of getting this proposal enacted into law.

CONTACTING THE OFFICE

To help coordinate our new initiative, I have appointed a new Veterans Outreach Specialist, Travis Alley. If you have any questions, you can reach Travis at (206) 464-6431 or travisa@atg.wa.gov.



Contact the Attorney General's Consumer Resource Center

1-800-551-4636

To learn about your rights or for assistance resolving a consumer problem, please contact the Attorney General's Office.



Visit our website for more information

www.atg.wa.gov/VeteranMilitaryResources.aspx



A number of laws grant unique protections and benefits to our veterans and military families. These laws were enacted in acknowledgment and appreciation of their service and sacrifice. For example, some of these laws help military personnel focus on their mission when called to active duty. Others give veterans a helping hand with employment and education.

One of the most important things the Attorney General's Office can do is help veterans, military personnel, and their families understand their legal rights and protections. That is why my office recently released a new *Military and Veterans Legal Resource Guide*.

This new guide summarizes in one place the legal rights, protections, and resources available to Washington's veterans and military families. It includes information on consumer and employment laws, and it also contains information about where veterans can find services and legal assistance. The guide is

