

## MLAT PARTICIPANT RESPONSIBILITIES

If your case is accepted by the MLAT, you are responsible for the following:

- Paying all filing fees and court costs associated with your case. MLAT pro bono volunteer attorneys donate their time and skills to your case, but do not pay such expenses. In some instances, the court may waive some of the costs associated with your case, but that is not always possible. You must be prepared to pay all filing fees and court costs in the event the court does not waive them.
- Cooperating with the MLAT and the pro bono volunteer who accepts your case. Failure to do so will result in removal from the program and the pro bono volunteer attorney terminating their representation of you. Cooperation includes, but is not necessarily limited to, the following:
  - › Promptly paying all costs associated with your case;
  - › Promptly returning phone calls and responding to emails from the MLAT and the pro bono volunteer attorney; and
  - › Promptly notifying the MLAT and the pro bono volunteer attorney in the event you decide to retain your own attorney, or if your case is otherwise resolved.

*All information contained in this pamphlet is current as of June 2018.  
For further information, contact the Office of the  
Missouri Attorney General at 573-751-6733.*



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# Military Legal Assistance Team

## Serving Those Who Serve

*Photo courtesy of MO National Guard*



# ERIC SCHMITT

## MISSOURI ATTORNEY GENERAL

# The Missouri Attorney General's Military Legal Assistance Team (MLAT)

Attorney General Eric Schmitt oversees the Military Legal Assistance Team (MLAT) to enhance the readiness of eligible Missouri military personnel by addressing qualifying legal issues that will be adjudicated within the State of Missouri and cannot be resolved by JAG attorneys.

This pamphlet details MLAT services offered to servicemembers, the eligibility requirements, referral process and participant obligations. For more information on the MLAT, including programs for veterans and educational presentations, visit the Team's website at <http://ago.mo.gov/mlat>, or contact the MLAT at (573) 751-6733. To apply for MLAT services, consult your unit's JAG attorney.

On behalf of the Attorney General's Office, thank you for your service.

## MLAT SERVICES

The MLAT offers the following services:

- Referrals to pro bono attorneys for representation of claims brought under the Servicemembers' Civil Relief Act (SCRA) and the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act (USERRA). Pro bono representation is subject to eligibility requirements and the availability of attorneys in your area. Contact your unit's JAG attorney for more information.
- Combats predatory business practices targeting Missouri's military communities. To report incidents, call (573) 751-6733.
- Educational presentations on military consumer protection issues, civil legal protections for servicemembers and MLAT services that are available to eligible servicemembers upon request. To schedule a presentation, call (573) 751-6733.
- Provides legal representation for National Guard personnel with certain employment claims arising as a result of State Emergency Duty. Contact your unit's JAG attorney to determine if your employment situation is covered by applicable state law.
- For veterans, conducts free estate planning workshops throughout the state. For more information, call (573) 751-6733.

## ELIGIBILITY FOR MLAT SERVICES

To be eligible for MLAT services, you must be:

- A servicemember on active, reserve, or National Guard duty, stationed within the State of Missouri, or;
- A Missouri resident servicemember stationed outside the State of Missouri;
- And have a legal issue with jurisdiction and venue in the State of Missouri.
- Members of the inactive reserves (IRR) are not eligible for MLAT services.

## REFERRALS TO THE MLAT

- All case referrals to the MLAT must be received from an active duty, guard or reserve JAG attorney within the State of Missouri.
- Referral of a case or acceptance of a case by the MLAT does not establish an attorney-client relationship between you and the MLAT or the Missouri Attorney General's Office. Acceptance of a referral by the MLAT is not a guarantee that legal representation will be provided to you. The provision of legal services or representation is subject to the merits of your case and the availability of pro bono volunteer attorneys. Every effort will be made to address referrals as quickly as possible, however, the MLAT cannot guarantee legal services can be provided within a specified timeframe.

- The MLAT will **not** accept referrals pertaining to:
  - › Legal issues which cannot be resolved within the State of Missouri;
  - › Criminal matters;
  - › Disputes with government agencies concerning benefit programs or public assistance programs;
  - › Family law matters, aside from asserting the servicemember's rights under the SCRA;
  - › Personal injury claims, aside from asserting the servicemember's rights under the SCRA;
  - › Legal disputes arising from a business owned/operated by the servicemember or their family, aside from asserting the servicemember's rights under the SCRA;
  - › Bankruptcy cases; or
  - › Appeals, to include any appeal arising from the original referral made to the MLAT.

