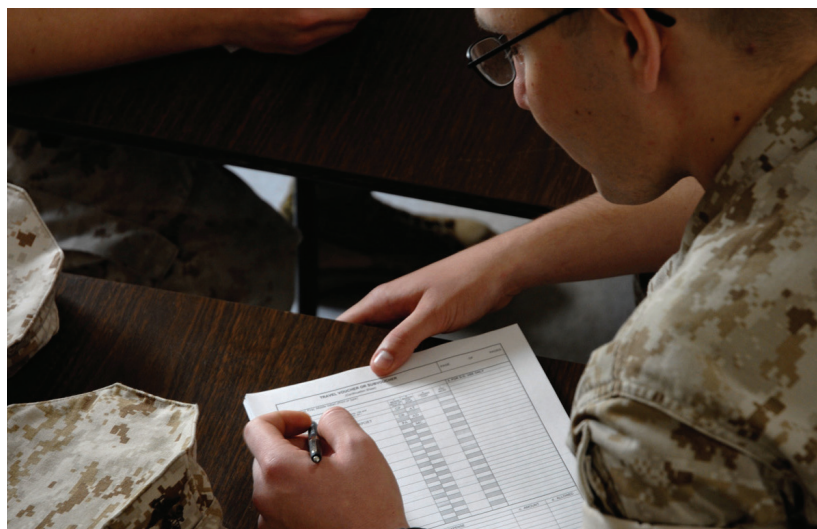


**Supporting
Our Troops**



Service to Soldiers: Legal Assistance Referral Program

Cooley Law School's Service to Soldiers: Legal Assistance Referral Program has helped hundreds of service men and women resolve legal problems they face upon return from deployment by matching them with volunteer attorneys across Michigan. The program's volunteer attorneys, Cooley alumni, faculty, students and staff have also prepared and notarized over 1,000 wills and Powers of Attorney for deploying troops. All deploying troops are eligible for free wills and Powers of Attorney. *Pro bono* lawyers are provided (within six months) to those military personnel of E5 rank or below who are deploying, deployed or have returned from deployment.

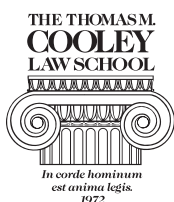
Family law and creditor/debtor issues are most the common cases, however, our volunteer attorneys can assist in dozens of legal areas. Our program cannot, however, assist service men and women attempting to avoid deployment or with military discipline matters.

In 2009, the Service to Soldiers: Legal Assistance Referral Program partnered with the Michigan State Bar Foundation and the Honigman Miller Schwartz and Cohn law firm to create the *Michigan Judge's Guide to the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act (SCRA)*. A copy of the guide was sent to every judge in the state in an effort to make sure the Bench is aware of the protections the SCRA affords to deployed troops and how those provisions are commonly applied in Michigan cases.

Knowledge

Skills

Ethics





In 2010, Cooley's Service to Soldiers: Legal Assistance Referral Program was recognized by Michigan's Department of Military and Veteran Affairs with the Legion of Merit Award, among the highest recognitions that can be bestowed upon civilians or service members. Major General Thomas Cutler, Adjutant General of the Michigan National Guard, presented the award to the program's director, Heather Spielmaker.

Cooley's Service to Soldiers: Legal Assistance Referral Program is available to men and women in every branch of military service throughout Michigan. We have referred cases and prepared documents for troops in dozens of Michigan counties:

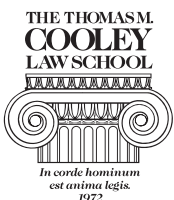
Allegan, Bay, Berrien, Calhoun, Charlevoix, Cheboygan, Clinton, Eaton, Genesee, Gladwin, Grand Traverse, Gratiot, Ingham, Isabella, Jackson, Kalamazoo, Kent, Lake, Lenawee, Livingston, Macomb, Manistee, Marquette, Mecosta, Midland, Monroe, Montcalm, Muskegon, Newaygo, Oakland, Oceana, Ogemaw, Osceola, Ottawa, Saginaw, Shiawassee, St. Clair, St. Joseph, Tuscola, Van Buren, Washtenaw, Wayne, Wexford.

If you have questions about this program or would like to participate, please contact Heather Spielmaker, Director of the Center for Ethics, Service, and Professionalism at Cooley Law School by phone (517) 371-5140, ext. 4112 or e-mail spielmah@cooley.edu.

Knowledge

Skills

Ethics



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