



American College of Trial Lawyers

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

American College of Trial Lawyers Foundation Grants \$50,000 To Advance Kansas City Veterans Initiative

Military Matters program to further help local vets with unmet legal needs

Newport Beach, CA (December 7, 2018) The American College of Trial Lawyers (ACTL) Foundation recognized the success of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation's (KCMBF) signature legal program "Legal Connection: Military Matters." Military Matters, a program that provides legal services to local veterans and active-duty military who do not qualify for legal aid assistance based on finances or type of legal matter, has met an enormous community need since its 2016 launch with the intake of over 600 referrals. In recognition of KCMBF's efforts and to further assist Military Matters in its future success, the ACTL Foundation recently awarded Military Matters with a \$50,000 grant to increase program efficiency through the digitization of their online referral process, as well as to raise local community awareness of the program.

Charles H. Dick, Jr., ACTL Foundation president said, "KCMBF's Military Matters program is making pro bono legal services more accessible to veterans, active-duty military personnel and their families in the Kansas City area. The ACTL is proud to join this effort and expand the reach of KCMBF's Military Matters program. The work KCMBF is doing aligns with the Foundation's mission to enhance access to justice for those who have served our country."

KCMBF, which is the charitable arm of the Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association, has developed a network of over 150 volunteer attorneys and collaborated with five local community partners on both sides of the state line to access veterans. Those partners include United Way of Greater Kansas City; the Department of Veterans Affairs Kansas City; Legal Aid of Western Missouri; Kansas Legal Services; and Veterans Community Project.

"The grant from the ACTL Foundation is transformational for Military Matters," said Dave White, chair of the Legal Connection: Military Matters Operating Committee. "It will allow the program to perform its tasks online, which will result in serving more veterans in need of legal assistance."

To learn more about the Military Matters program and to donate to the cause please visit www.kclegalconnection.org. For more information about Military Matters contact Foundation Director Patricia Rutherford at prutherford@kcmbf.org

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About [American College of Trial Lawyers](#)

American College of Trial Lawyers is composed of preeminent members of the trial bar from the United States and Canada and is recognized as the leading trial lawyers organization in both countries. Founded in 1950, the College is an invitation only fellowship. The College thoroughly investigates each nominee for admission and selects only those who have demonstrated the very highest standards of trial advocacy, ethical conduct, integrity, professionalism and collegiality. The College is dedicated to maintaining and seeking to improve the standards of trial practice, professionalism, ethics, and the administration of justice through education and public statements on important legal issues relating to its mission. The College strongly supports the independence of the judiciary, trial by jury, respect for the rule of law, access to justice, and fair and just representation of all parties to legal proceedings. For more information about the College, visit its website at www.actl.com.

About the [Foundation of the American College of Trial Lawyers](#)

The U.S. and Canadian Foundations of the College are dedicated to improvement in the quality of trial and appellate advocacy, the ethics of our profession and the administration of justice. The Foundations are funded by voluntary contributions, memorial gifts and bequests.

About Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation

Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Foundation (KCMBF) is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization founded in 1979 and is the charitable arm of Kansas City Metropolitan Bar Association (KCMBA.) The mission of KCMBF is to serve the community by creating, supporting or funding public service or educational programs which promote the administration of justice, delivery of legal services, professional development or respect for the law.

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