

MVA Volunteers:

As you know, veterans have made tremendous sacrifices on behalf of this great nation. Unfortunately, many servicemen and servicewomen experience difficulty in returning to civilian life. These men and women, along with their families, often need support to access affordable housing, educational opportunities, gainful employment, adequate healthcare and – yes – legal services.

The Pennsylvania Service Connect Team (PSC) is a new initiative developed by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, a federal agency. In partnership with the City of Harrisburg and the Dauphin County Department of Human Services, PSC addresses the needs of American vets and their families. Our area is one of thirteen regions in the nation selected for a unique venture among the private sector, community and faith-based organizations, and government agencies.

Next month, PSC will host the First Annual Service, Support & Resource Showcase Event to provide information and assistance to veterans, their families and other underserved individuals. Law professors, attorneys, and law students are needed as legal volunteers to launch this exciting campaign on Saturday, Sept. 22, 2012, from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. at New Hope Church, 584 Colonial Club Drive, Harrisburg.

If you can only attend for one or two hours, your support is still needed!

Legal volunteers will connect with the target population to explain how to access lawyers, how to navigate legal referral services, and how to select an attorney from the Pennsylvania Bar Association, the Dauphin County Bar Association, the Keystone Bar Association, Mid-Penn Legal Services, and the Harrisburg Civil Law Clinic of Widener University School of Law.

We ask that you serve as a volunteer at the showcase event on Sept. 22, 2012, or, alternatively, that you provide brochures, pamphlets, or other literature explaining the legal services that your organization offers. Finally, if you know a local attorney who is interested in providing legal services to veterans – pro bono or otherwise – please contact me to discuss how they can connect with veterans in need of advocacy.

The event is designed as a “service fair” with information booths, resource tables, informal speakers, free food, music and much more. There will be an honor guard flag salute as well. This will be family-friendly environment, so children are welcome to attend!

If you are interested in this service project, please contact me before the next planning meeting on Thursday, Aug. 20, 2012, to register your volunteer efforts and donations. I attached a **short presentation** explaining this project in greater detail.

Thank you for your support of local veterans!

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