PURPOSE AND SCOPE

The purpose and scope of the work of this task force is:

1. To promote partnerships between local bar associations and available resources to help solve veterans’ legal problems, including involvement in Alabama Veterans Network (AlaVetNet) Legal Committee and VA conference events.

2. To provide continuing legal education programs throughout Alabama to train young lawyers and other members of the Alabama State Bar to provide legal assistance to veterans, service members, and their families.

3. In conjunction with Project Rally Point at the University of Alabama School of Law, to build a comprehensive website that informs veterans of legal issues and directs them to appropriate resources, including lawyers who have agreed to provide legal assistance. See: https://projectrallypoint.org/.

4. To encourage law schools and bar associations to promote legal-services through clinics and other formats that could help veterans and service members while providing training to new and underemployed lawyers, including training to assist and serve in Veteran’s Treatment Courts (VTCs).

5. To extend the National Pro Bono Celebration Week in late October to include Veteran’s Day and sponsor additional volunteer efforts around Memorial Day and other possible events and celebrations.

6. In conjunction with the Alabama Administrative Office of Courts, the judges and legislature, to promote and support the Veteran’s Treatment Courts (VTCs) by updating and circulating the VTC manual.

7. To assist in the updating of the current civil legal guide and support its availability to all ASB attorneys for their use and reference while serving veterans, service members and their families. The current guide that is in process of updating can be found at https://projectrallypoint.org/resources/.

8. To provide a report to ASB leadership regarding available resources, grants and funding that could be obtained to enhance and support these efforts now and in the future.

The task force may divide itself into such working groups as may be necessary to effectively carry out its functions. The chairperson shall appoint a chair for any working group. The task force shall elect from its membership a secretary who shall be responsible for a written record of its actions. The secretary, or a designee, shall keep minutes of all meetings of the task force, and of all working groups thereof. The original of the minutes shall be filed with the Alabama State Bar within 14 days after each meeting to be made a part of the task force’s file.

The Alabama State Bar, through its designated staff liaison, will assist the task force in carrying out its purpose.
A midyear and final report shall be provided to ASB leadership, outlining the progress and completion of these efforts, and recommending whether this task force should be re-appointed for the 2019-2020 bar year, should be made a standing committee, or has completed its work and should be dissolved.

Done as of August 15, 2018

Sam W. Irby
President, Alabama State Bar