

PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT

October 2018 – Shawn Lee



We would like to recognize Mr. Shawn Lee for his immense dedication to the Military Matters program. Not only is Shawn an associate and litigator at Foland, Wickens, Roper, Hofer & Crawford, P.C., he is dedicated to the Military Matters Operating Committee by always volunteering to attend events and take on various tasks. Shawn's motivation for being involved with Military Matters stems from being enlisted in the Army as an infantryman at nineteen years old. Shawn served for eight years and during this time he was deployed in Iraq and Afghanistan. He witnessed first-hand the brain injuries, mental health conditions, substance abuse and suicide instances that can occur.

It was having a front row seat that inspired Shawn to go to law school at the University of Missouri School of Law. Shawn's past experiences inspire him to keep giving his helping hand. Upon moving to Kansas City, Shawn wanted to devote a portion of his practice to focus on writing discharge upgrade applications for combat veterans. This course led Shawn to the Military Matters Program and to become a pro-bono attorney.

Shawn truly has made his mark on the Military Matters program. Since moving to Kansas City, he has been a member of the Military Matters Operating Committee. On the committee, he was the co-chair for the 4th Annual Military Matters Symposium last year. In this role, he was able to expand on topics of Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, traumatic brain injuries and suicide; each of which are significantly important to Shawn. Shawn is also the head of the Internship Subcommittee that oversees pairing law students with network attorneys. Shawn attends events in the community such as the Semi-Annual Heart of America Stand Down. Attending various events allows Shawn to build a personal relationship with veterans by enrolling them into the Military Matters program so they can get the help they need.



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More than 600 cases have gone through the Military Matters program so far. To Shawn, the most rewarding success has been seeing the program grow to what it is today. There is an entire network of pro-bono attorneys that are willing to help veterans. Shawn himself has taken on multiple cases donating 45+ hours of his personal time and effort and has provided over 300 hours of logistical and administrative support. He even provides pro-bono representation to veterans and their families that live outside the nine-county boundaries of Military Matters. To Shawn, it is more than just receiving a positive outcome on each case; he sees it as, “.1% of a volunteer attorney’s life can affect the outcome of a pro bono client’s entire life.”

Apart from his active participation in the Military Matters program, he is the Legislative Liaison for the 101st Airborne Division Association – Gateway Chapter. Wearing this hat, Shawn has testified about service dog legislation to the Missouri House of Representatives and advocated for the Mizzou Law Veterans Clinic and Veteran Treatment Courts.

Shawn is a distinct force in the Military Matters program and legal community. He has served his country, his peers and continues to help serve veterans and active duty service members in any way he can. KCMBF is lucky to have a member of the Military Matters program like Shawn. We are very thankful for his dedication to the program, Foundation, and the Kansas City Community.



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