

# PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT

May 2020 – Marcus McLaughlin



KCMBF's Military Matters is proud to shine the May #ProBonoSpotlight on Marcus McLaughlin, an attorney with McLaughlin Law Firm.

Marcus goes above and beyond for the veterans who have been referred to him through Military Matters. Recently, Marcus agreed to take a referral for a veteran seeking a divorce, a request that was more or less “standard” of what to expect. He completed all the paperwork, then the divorce was postponed: prior to completing the divorce, the veteran’s wife passed away and the case turned into probate between the veteran and the children.

Rather than rejecting this referral, Marcus dedicated extra time to research and stick with this case to assist the veteran through the probate process. When asked why he joined the Military Matters program, Marcus said, “Why not help people? You've got to help people along the way. People remember you helped them out when you didn't have to.”

Being an attorney has helped Marcus develop a different perspective, which he brings to his Military Matters volunteer efforts. He says, “Being an attorney isn't necessarily about arguing your point, it's about seeing everyone else's point and looking at all sides, even if it's not advantageous to you.”



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Originally from Wyandotte County, Marcus attended Sumner Academy of Arts & Science, followed by the University of Kansas, where he received a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree. As he was always interested in history and politics, he was eventually encouraged to attend law school by some of his professors. After gaining his law degree at KU, Marcus worked for seven years at the Kansas Department for Children and Families before stepping out on his own as a solo practitioner.

As a father, Marcus says being a lawyer has changed his parenting at times. He tries to listen to all perspectives, and tends to advise rather than dictate (although he says his son may be getting a bit tired of him advising at this point). He has noticed this may have an effect on how his son perceives things as well – teaching him to question what he learns and consider all perspectives of the story. Although his son is currently in 10<sup>th</sup> grade, back in fifth grade this caused him to write a “scathing” review of Christopher Columbus for a school project!

In his free time, Marcus enjoys creative pursuits and says, “Have a hobby, whether it’s music, painting, or working out.” He personally enjoys painting in his free time. And no matter the pursuit or issue, Marcus says, “Call me, and if I can’t do it, I will lead you to someone who can help.”

Thank you, Marcus for your dedication to KCMBF’s #MilitaryMatters!



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