

# PRO BONO SPOTLIGHT

September 2020 – Maureen Lester

KCMBF's Military Matters is proud to shine the September #ProBonoSpotlight on Maureen Lester, an attorney with Van Osdol PC.

Maureen Lester has not only dedicated countless hours to the assistance of veterans through the Military Matters program, but also volunteers her time as one of the Military Matters committee members who supports the program's operations. Maureen specializes in elder law and special needs law, which often

involve estate planning. With this background she has helped several veterans each year since joining the program as a volunteer in estate planning, VA benefits, and VA pensions. Maureen learned about the program while serving on another KCMBF committee and signed up to help as both a volunteer and committee member when a call for assistance was sent out. Maureen states these cases have been a very positive experience for her. "They give you a really good feeling, that you've helped someone realize their problem isn't insurmountable."

Maureen determined she would specialize in elder law and special needs law during her second year of law school. At the time she was taking an elder



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law class and simultaneously her grandfather experienced major health issues and her grandmother struggled to live at home alone. Maureen was very close to her grandparents, and her family personally experienced what many of her clients go through. Maureen describes her clients as a “shining light and beacon,” genuinely great individuals who she can assist in times of crisis. She fulfills her passion for helping others through this work, and states her favorite part is getting hugs from her clients. After creating her own path through law school to learn as much as possible about elder law, special needs law, and estate planning, Maureen joined Shepherd Elder Law Group, LLC. She remained there until January of this year, when she joined Van Osdol PC.

Being a lawyer has changed Maureen’s perspective and approach to problems, which she brings to her Military Matters clients. She has learned how to break down a problem into achievable pieces, which has impacted her life in almost every facet. When talking with friends in her personal life, Maureen says, “When they talk about a problem, I can ask better questions to help them solve the issue themselves.” Knowing the best questions to ask can often make a large difference. She believes Military Matters is the best, easiest and most rewarding way to fill your pro bono requirement, “Because you get to do something you are good at which means you can really, really help someone. As an organization it is excellently run and practitioners can expect to get the support needed.”

Maureen lives with her husband, Michael, who she met in law school, their one-and-a-half-year-old daughter, Teagan, and their faithful canine



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companion, who was the ring bearer at their wedding. They are both originally from Kansas City, and Maureen has many connections to the military through her family. Her maternal grandfather was part of the Office of Special Investigations in the Navy, she has two uncles and an aunt who have served, and currently has a cousin commissioned as an officer in the Marine Corps.

Thank you, Maureen, for your dedication to KCMBF's #MilitaryMatters!



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