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Free Legal Counsel for Low-income Veterans Comes to Orlando

posted by Darryl E. on Feb 25, 2008 5:51:34 PM

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The University of Detroit Mercy School of Law (UDM) Mobile Law Office will stop in Orlando Wednesday on its nationwide PROJECT SALUTE tour to provide free legal assistance and/or representation to thousands of low-income veterans on federal benefits issues.

During this time, UDM Law will hold an educational seminar and prescreening event to inform veterans generally of federal benefits for which they might be eligible.

UDM Law is the only law school in the country with a recreational vehicle that has been outfitted as a law office. For the national tour, General Motors is donating a specially designed, state-of-the-art RV that follows ADA accessibility guidelines, including a wheel-chair lift, oversize bathroom and same-level floor throughout the coach.

Through the mobile law office, volunteer attorneys and UDM Law faculty and students counseled and assisted more than 800 people during the past year.

"When we started our Veterans Clinic, we were overwhelmed by the response and the requests for assistance from veterans both in Michigan and around the country," said Mark Gordon, Dean of the University of Detroit Mercy School of Law. "Our veterans deserve the best care available, and with the nationwide launch of our [mobile law office] and in partnership with members of the legal profession locally and around the country, we will be able to help low-income veterans seeking federal benefits assistance."

To maximize the reach and impact of UDM Law's Orlando stop, a number of local attorneys, legal support groups, and veterans organizations have already agreed to assist UDM Law's PROJECT SALUTE in Orlando.

But the school is seeking the support of additional attorneys. There will be a training session for attorneys and representatives interested in assisting veterans and learning more about veterans' federal benefits law. The training will take place Friday, February 29, from 9:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m. at the American Legion Post #286. The American Legion Post #286 is located at 529 Fairlane Avenue in Orlando.

The mobile law office will be on hand at 10 a.m. at the Wyndham Orlando Resort, 8001 International Drive.

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About



Darryl E. Owens, after earning a B.A. in Journalism at Howard University in 1990, joined the Orlando Sentinel. For six months he covered the towns of Oakland, Windermere, and Bay Lakes/Bay Vista, before

taking over for two years the night police beat. For 13 years, Mr. Owens covered the family and health and fitness beats as a feature writer. Since 2003, Mr. Owens has penned a general interest Local & State column. He now covers military affairs for the Sentinel.

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