

CO-FOUNDER'S MESSAGE – ASSOCIATION OF MILITARY LEGAL ADMINISTRATORS

We began with a simple message, “Through continued fellowship, the Association seeks to preserve old friendships, support and uphold the values of military service and to continue to share knowledge in an ongoing mission of teaching, coaching, mentoring, and leading.” It has been nearly two years since our inception and I stand by those words, more now than ever, because our members have exemplified those words with their actions.

When I sat down with my good friend and colleague, Jim Steddum, more than two years ago, we set out as professionals who would add value to their communities, not only as a profession, but as a cohort – to a class of citizen whose knowledge, skills and ability extend beyond military service to the reaches of everyday social change.

I often hear, “What’s in it for me?” and I quietly reply, “Nothing!”

What I envisioned is a group of people willing to give more of themselves than they could possibly receive in return. The idea was, that if we continued to grow, together, we could achieve some profound things, and we certainly have. In our first year, our Association lost one of its own, and our members opened their hearts, helping raise approximately \$6,000 towards a scholarship in honor of Carl Rickert II. In our second year, as devastating hurricanes swept across the south, we were there to help the Rivera family at a time when the family suffered devastating financial loss because of Hurricane Maria.

When asked what we have done since this Association has begun, I can honestly say “We’ve helped.” We helped because we could help. We will continue to help because it is within us to help.

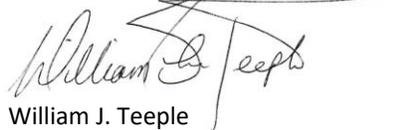
When one of our own faces that immediate moment when he or she must consider life beyond military service, we are there to help guide their way. We offer our own experiences; we offer sage advice; we offer them assistance where and when it is needed and when and how we can.

Our members have shared information on job opportunities. They have offered their own experiences, advice, and lent a helpful ear to those who sought them out. Our retirees have shown us that life after military service is not so scary and oftentimes, just as rewarding, and as well, they have demonstrated that they still care about the course of their former military profession. We learned from our younger members – those who have just joined our profession – that there are newer ways of communicating and newer ideas on the horizon, we only need listen. And yet, as we continue to grow, we will continue our efforts by offering transitional support, establishing new training opportunities, and maintaining a dialogue with our members.

I encourage the continued growth of our organization because it has meaning, and it can continue give meaning for years to come. I encourage the next generation of military legal administrators to climb aboard and start their journey of fellowship, comradery and community service. Where we can, we will Teach. When we can, we will Coach. Who affords us the opportunity, we will Mentor; and we are always, always, be ready to Lead.

Stay the course, my friends. Continue to give of yourselves to our profession and our legacy.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "William J. Teeple". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, sweeping flourish at the end.

William J. Teeple
Co-Founder

Co-Founder's 2018 Message to the Members

As we pass the second full year of the Association in full operation, I have been reflecting on the intent of organization and whether we are achieving our intent. We are certainly getting there!

The original goal was to build a resilient framework of charitable service with a strategic vision that enables all Legal Administrators, past and present, to have and make lasting contributions to the military, our communities, and our Nation. As Warrant Officer's in both the Army and U.S. Marine Corps pass 100 years of service, we look to learn from their heritage while carving a new path of leadership and management in the legal profession. We have an unprecedented opportunity to seize the momentum of the day to bring the Legal Administrator family together and learn from one another.

This Association should set an example to the JAG Corps, each military service, and our communities that our Warrant Officers of the highest character, with unmatched competence, and unwavering commitment to service. It is a way to pay back what was given to us, and a way to pay forward to those that will continue the fight after we are gone.

It is a great honor to be a co-founder of this organization. Because of the elite few that can be members—I know that AMLA will grow and thrive for generations. Teach, Coach, Mentor, Lead!

Sincerely,

Jim Steddum

Jim Steddum, Co-Founder, Association of Military Legal Administrators

#AMLA #TCML