



DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

1600 DEFENSE PENTAGON
WASHINGTON, DC 20301-1600

May 1, 2014

Thomas H. Bienert, Jr., Esquire
President
Orange County Bar Association
P.O. Box 6130
Newport Beach, CA 92658

Dear Mr. Bienert:

I am writing to inform you that the Department of Defense (DoD) is conducting a comprehensive review of the military justice system and to invite the Orange County Bar Association to provide advice or recommendations to improve the military justice system.

The comprehensive review, which was ordered by Secretary of Defense Chuck Hagel, is being conducted by the Military Justice Review Group (MJRG), which was established by the General Counsel of the Department of Defense. The MJRG is headed by the Honorable Andrew S. Effron, who is a distinguished former Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals for the Armed Forces. The MJRG's senior advisors are Senior Judge David Sentelle of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit, and the Honorable Judith Miller, a former DoD General Counsel. The Department of Justice has provided an advisor to the MJRG, which also includes senior civilian DoD and military lawyers.

While DoD is happy to receive public suggestions to improve the military justice system at any time, input for the MJRG's consideration would be most helpful if submitted before July 1, 2014. The best means to provide input is by email, which may be sent to OSD.UCMJ@mail.mil. Alternatively, you can provide input by standard mail, though due to security precautions, such mail is often delayed before reaching recipients in the Pentagon. Suggestions may be mailed to: Military Justice Review, Office of General Counsel, Room 3B747, 1600 Defense Pentagon, Washington, DC 20301-1600. The Office of General Counsel will forward any submissions to the MJRG.

We look forward to receiving any suggestions that the Orange County Bar Association might have as we work to improve the military justice system.

Sincerely,

Paul S. Koffsky
Deputy General Counsel
(Personnel & Health Policy)

