



AMERICAN MILITARY RETIREES ASSOCIATION

YOUR "HOME BASE" IN RETIREMENT

June 22, 2017

Uniform Law Commission

Harry Tindall, Chair

Model Veterans Treatment Court & Model Veterans Treatment Court Rules

Dear Chairman Tindall:

The majority of our veterans return to their "home base" strengthened by their military service, but many struggle with trauma, mental illness, or substance use disorders. These issues can be exacerbated by the loss of structure and camaraderie found in the military. Veterans treatment courts provide treatment, accountability and mentoring, and they help connect justice-involved veterans with the benefits they've earned. Study after study has shown veterans treatment courts save the lives, families, and futures of our veterans while also saving taxpayer dollars.

The AMERICAN MILITARY RETIREES ASSOCIATION (www.1973amra.org), represents retirees of all U.S. armed forces and their families through legislative advocacy, academic scholarship, member discount programs and affiliation with other American patriots. AMRA wholly endorses and fully supports the efforts of our partners at the NATIONAL CONFERENCE OF COMMISSIONERS ON UNIFORM STATE LAWS (www.uniformlaws.org) as they work to enact a Model Veterans Treatment Court Act and Model Veterans Treatment Court Rules throughout local, state and federal jurisdictions.

As drafted, this Model Veterans Treatment Court Act and accompanying Model Veterans Treatment Court Rules are to be administered with an immediate and highly structured judicial intervention process for substance use disorders, mental health conditions, or other clinically assessed treatment needs of eligible veteran and service member defendants in order to positively influence participants, their families and the communities in which they live.

Veterans treatment courts bring together substance use disorder and mental health professionals, federal, state and local Veterans Administration professionals, non-governmental social programs, and intensive judicial monitoring in accordance with the nationally recommended key components of alternative sentencing courts, such as drug and mental health courts.

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AMRA stands with the Uniform Law Commission and with partner Veterans Service Organizations as we continue to proudly serve our nation's veterans, their families and this nation.

The American Military Retirees Association extends its gratitude to all those who served on the project team to make this valuable opportunity available to all veterans who qualify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kirk Bennett", with a stylized, flowing script.

Kirk Bennett
National President