

## ADOPTED AS REVISED

### RECOMMENDATION

1 RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association supports the development of  
2 comprehensive, systemic approaches to address the special needs of veterans within civil  
3 and criminal court contexts, including but not limited to proceedings involving veterans  
4 service-related injuries, disorders, mental health and substance abuse needs, through  
5 ~~diversionary~~ programs that connect veterans to appropriate housing, treatment and  
6 services through partnerships with the local Veterans Affairs Medical Centers,  
7 community-based services and housing providers.  
8

9 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association urges state, local, and  
10 territorial courts to facilitate the development of Veterans Treatment Courts, including  
11 but not limited to, specialized court calendars or the expansion of available resources  
12 within existing civil and criminal court models focused on treatment-oriented  
13 ~~diversionary~~ proceedings.  
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15 FURTHER RESOLVED, That the American Bar Association adopts the following  
16 principles for Veterans Treatment Courts to the extent appropriate and feasible for each  
17 jurisdiction:  
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- 19 1) Participation is voluntary and the constitutional rights of participants are retained.  
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- 21 2) Veterans Treatment Courts or the resources devoted to veterans within existing civil and  
22 criminal court models will utilize the participation of a caseworker and legal  
23 representative with coordination from federal Veterans Affairs employees, veteran  
24 service agencies, community-based service providers, and local agencies to assess the  
25 needs of and provide veterans with appropriate housing, treatment, services, job training,  
26 and benefits.  
27
- 28 3) Veterans Treatment Courts or the resources devoted to veterans within existing civil and  
29 criminal court models include mentoring sessions with other veterans.  
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- 31 4) In the criminal court context, participants in the ~~diversion~~ program have all qualifying  
32 charges reduced or dismissed, or traditional sanctions waived, including where  
33 appropriate and feasible, more serious charges, commensurate with completion of  
34 appropriate treatment and services. Where charges are dismissed, public access to the  
35 record is limited, where appropriate and feasible as provided by state or local law,  
36 including through expungement.  
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- 38 5) The Veterans Treatment Courts shall address those criminal matters that involve serious  
39 violent felonies only at the discretion of local courts.  
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- 41 6) The success of Veterans Treatment Courts or additional resources devoted to veterans  
42 within existing civil and criminal court models is measured through the following  
43 outcomes:

# REVISED 105A

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**(DELETIONS STRUCK THROUGH; ADDITIONS UNDERLINED)**