



# MARINE CORPS LEAGUE

## Office of the National Judge Advocate

David Porter

[dporter@mcleague.org](mailto:dporter@mcleague.org)

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From: David Porter, National Judge Advocate, Marine Corps League  
To: Warren Griffin, National Commandant, Marine Corps League  
Subj: Nation Judge Advocate Report for Midwinter 2024

Welcome to 2024 Midwinter Conference. It is going to be an honor to see everyone again. The first sixth months have been really busy, which most of it is a good thing. Marines from all over the country have been challenging my knowledge, keeping me on my toes, and having me dig into some research. I enjoy the connection for I am here to serve. I have attended six zoom meetings, and one of those six was our first zoom meeting set up for Department Judge Advocates back in December 2023. We will have a second zoom meeting set up in March 2024 and work on a quarterly schedule. A Department Judge Advocate roster was created and distributed out to all the Department Judge Advocates. Listening to the concerns, three rulings had to be drafted and then distributed out to the National Vice Commandants so they could pass down range throughout their divisions. Those three subject matters were on; Detachment general body meetings back to in-person, your last DD214 to be accepted to join, and Veterans in Veterans Treatment Court. We had three Marines and one Associate resign with prejudice, and three Marines resign before a Chapter 9 was filed. Detachment, Department, and Division Commandants I strongly encourage you to be the leaders you are and attempt to mediate the problem before a Chapter 9 is filed. Act of being heard can go a long way backed with some understanding. None of us are perfect and we all make mistakes, Have patience, take a step back and try to look at the issue from all angles. Yes this is a two way street. Marines we need to check the personal attitude at the door for not one of us is bigger than the league. We are here to look out for each other especially at a time of need. If all else fails, we have to go to Chapter 9. Over all Chapter 9s end up taking a toll on us all and to the League, Chapter 9 should be the last resort. The discussions have started

back up to re-write Chapter 9 to help make it more understanding. Yes training is needed and will be in the works down the road.

I really enjoy interacting via phone and emails with Marines from all over the country, but please use your chain of command. This is very crucial in keeping that chain of communication going back and forth. Even if you are thinking you are doing the right thing, and trying to do someone a favor, please use your chain of command, trust me I am speaking from experience.

I am giving you my best to answer the phone and respond back to emails. But for some reason, you do not hear back from me please reach out again for that friendly reminder. I encourage it for I have learned to check the ego at the door and to keep an open mind for I am here to serve. You lead from the front, and I have learned it is healthier to spend that energy for the good, to be positive than to be negative.

Semper Fi



**David M Porter Jr,**  
**National Judge Advocate**  
**Marine Corps League**  
[dporter@mcleague.org](mailto:dporter@mcleague.org)

