

Pro Bono Report 2018



JUSTICE FOR ALL
A Tennessee Supreme Court Initiative

Introduction

The 2018 Tennessee Pro Bono Report is a publication of the Tennessee Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission (the “ATJ Commission”). This latest edition of this report compiles and analyzes data collected by the ATJ Commission and others. **For the first time, the 2018 Report features additional Board of Professional Responsibility (BPR) Data broken down by geographic location including county and state as well as by gender.**

The ATJ Commission provides collaborative leadership to create solutions and resources that address and eliminate barriers to justice for all. The ATJ Commission is responsible for developing strategic planning focused on educating the public about legal needs, identifying priorities for improving access to justice, and recommending projects and programs to improve access to justice across the state. One focus of the ATJ Commission is pro bono work that aids disadvantaged Tennesseans. The annual pro bono report educates about existing pro bono work happening in Tennessee to inspire future initiatives.

The 2018 Tennessee Pro Bono Report covers pro bono initiatives and data including but not limited to the following:

- Information and statistics on pro bono work that was completed by individual attorneys in 2017 and reported in 2018, as voluntarily submitted on the BPR’s Annual Registration Statement, which is required of active attorneys on or before the first day of the attorney’s birth month.
- Information and statistics on pro bono activities of legal aid providers, bar associations, law schools, mediation centers, and other organizations regarding work performed in 2018.

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Executive Summary

Tennessee made a good choice when it adopted its motto as “the Volunteer State.” The benefits of community volunteerism are well-documented and lead to better morale, deep satisfaction, and vibrant neighborhoods and societies. This year’s Pro Bono Report demonstrates how attorneys in the Volunteer State have created a culture invested in pro bono work that is gaining momentum in the fight to meet the civil legal needs of all Tennesseans.

Creating a culture of pro bono is really quite simple and can ignite with a single spark. You volunteer at a clinic and inspire a colleague. A law firm learns of a program at another firm and thinks “we can do that.” A house of worship sees a flyer for a group serving the legal needs of an at-risk population and the seed is set for a new project.

Pro Bono inspires pro bono, and momentum is building.

More attorneys, and higher percentages of attorneys, are reporting pro bono than ever before. For the second year in a row, more than half of Tennessee Attorneys reported pro bono hours. For the first time, more than half of All Attorneys, which includes those living outside of the state, reported performing pro bono hours. More attorneys were recognized as Attorneys for Justice.

A culture of pro bono is growing.

749,217 hours of pro bono service were reported by All Attorneys, which is an increase of more than 50,000 hours from the prior year. What we are most proud of is the work done during these 749,217 hours focused on providing hands-on legal services to some of our state’s most vulnerable populations. Ethnic minorities, single parents, the elderly, students, and veterans were the most common groups served. They were most likely to receive services at a legal clinic where attorneys were most likely to meet with them, provide advice, or review or draft a document. The issues they most often tackled were the ones that derail lives every day: family law, domestic violence, consumer law, and juvenile/education.

We are also impressed with how law firms, non-profits, and other partners described creative ways they used innovation, passion, and their own niche skills to impact their communities. For example, intellectual property law attorneys told us about how they leveraged their expertise to create and volunteer at pro bono events designed specifically for budding musicians and artists and help non-profits prepare and file trademark applications.

Stories submitted by partners give life to the numbers featured throughout the report.

Whether attorneys want to use pro bono opportunities as a refreshing change to everyday practice or stay within their practice areas, there is a pro bono opportunity for everyone.

For the first time this year, we were able to separate out pro bono hours by county. We analyzed the data using three different metrics and regardless of what measures we used, the same pattern kept appearing: pro bono work inspires pro bono work. Counties with the largest number of attorneys reporting pro bono hours, top percentage of attorneys providing pro bono, and the most attorneys providing pro bono per capita are clustered together. The data shows that if attorneys in Hardin County are serving the community, so are attorneys in neighboring McNairy and Wayne counties. If Rutherford County attorneys are giving their time, so are attorneys in Wilson County. If there is a culture of pro bono in Washington County, it is also evident in Sullivan and Greene County. In total, 44 counties were in the Top 20 in one of our three categories and all but one border another county that was recognized.

What you do inspires your colleagues and neighbors.

Attorneys can change lives through one interaction. One meeting, one phone call, one letter. Just a few minutes can make a difference. And just a few minutes donated here and there add up. In this report, we estimate the value of pro bono work done in the year at \$137,805,970. That is a hefty figure and sizable donation, but the value is so much more than just a dollar sign. For the child who receives an individual education plan, to the family who still has a home after eviction threats, to the young adult whose record is expunged, your work is invaluable. The impact that your work has on the communities and persons served is immeasurable.

The impact lawyers can have is not measured in dollars; it is measured in lives changed.

To the Tennessee Access to Justice Community, we could not be more proud of the work you have done on behalf of ensuring access to justice for all. As we continue to build momentum and a culture of volunteerism in the legal community, we are excited for the future and what we can accomplish.

\$137,805,970

in free legal services provided to **Tennesseans** in need.

52.28%

of Tennessee Attorneys provided pro bono legal services.

640,958

hours of pro bono legal services provided.

51.15%

of all attorneys who have licenses in TN (both in-state and out-of-state) provided pro bono legal services, up from 47.11% during the previous year.

Pro Bono

2,882

clients were matched with an attorney for limited scope representation through TALS programs in 2018.

67.19

average number of hours donated in 2018 by Tennessee Attorneys.

In Numbers

97.92%

of responding law firms reported that Access to Justice is a priority for their law firm and more than 25% reported that Access to Justice was a top priority or the most important priority for their firm.

2,000+

hours of pro bono were provided by faith-based partnerships including 1,851 hours of pro bono provided to individuals.

100%

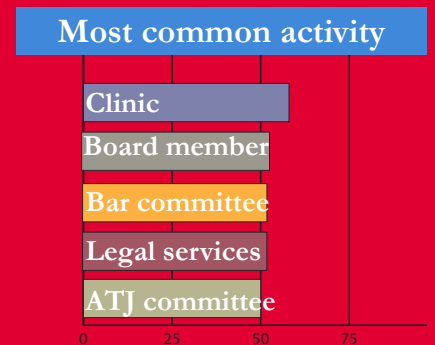
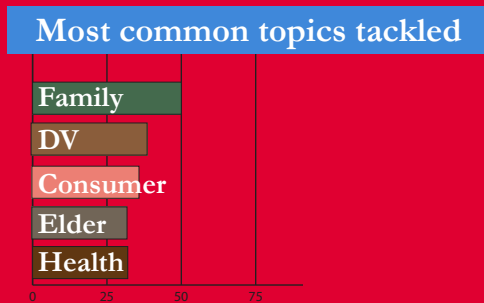
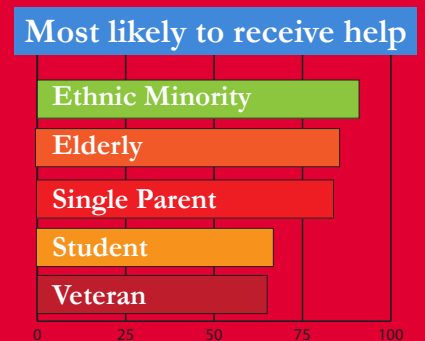
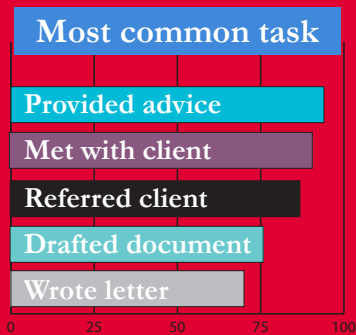
of law schools report that 25% or more of their students participate in pro bono legal services.

717

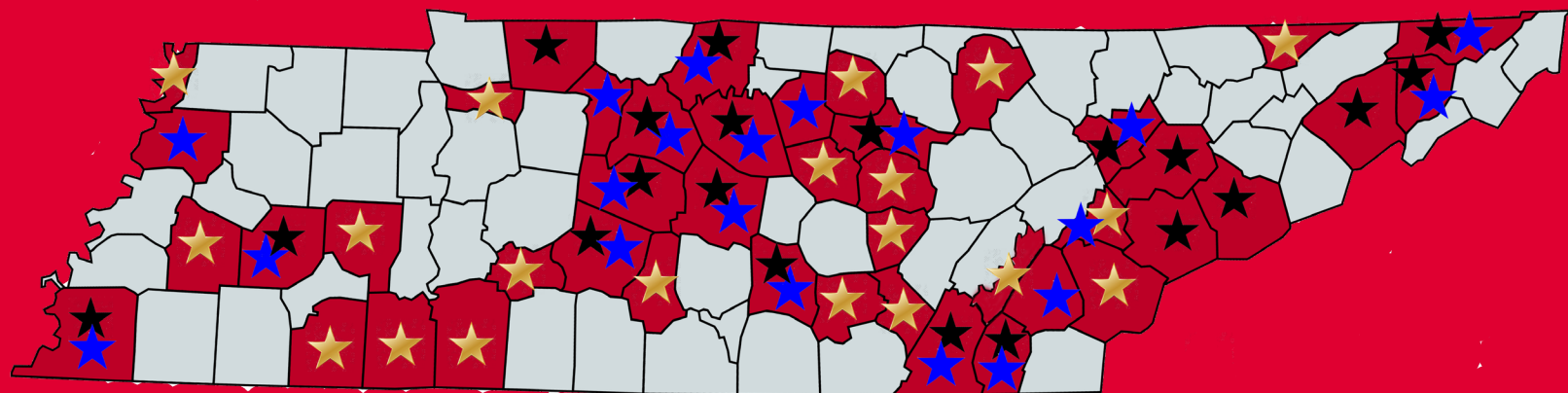
attorneys were recognized by the Tennessee Supreme Court for providing 50 or more hours of pro bono.

749,217 hours donated

Pro Bono In Graphics



Where the most pro bono work was done



Most likely to receive help



“Vanderbilt partnered with the Southern Poverty Law Center’s Southeast Immigrant Freedom Initiative and the Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union to provide students with excellent **Pro Bono Spring Break** experiences. Additionally, we partnered with Ned Pillersdorf to help low-income victims of a massive fraud scheme to keep their disability benefits.”

—Vanderbilt Law School

“The Knoxville Barristers continued to sponsor monthly **veterans legal advice clinics** and quarterly **Faith & Justice and Debt Relief Legal Clinics**. Lawyers and law students who participate in these clinics may not typically take a pro bono case through Legal Aid of East Tennessee or through one of the local law schools, so this project has been successful at increasing the number of lawyers performing pro bono legal services through legal advice clinics.”

—The Knoxville Bar Association

“In 2018 we received the 2018 Community Court Grant to receive technical assistance from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance with the Center for Court Innovation in partnership with the TN Supreme Court, Access to Justice Commission to implement **a New Diversionary Court named C.A.R.E.** (Creating Avenues for Restoration & Empowerment) for Ages 18-30.”

—Music City Community Court

Pro Bono

Partner Stories

“In 2018, we hired a part-time consultant to redesign our existing pro bono program, to integrate our individual pro bono representation with a new program where we design and advocate for the implementation of systems to address the needs for the targeted population as a whole. We also began requiring all staff, even law clerks, to **contribute 10% of their time to pro bono initiatives.**”

—Held Law Firm

“We have been successful in **reuniting fathers/mothers with their children via parenting plans**. We reunite fathers/mothers with their children through our supervised visitation program. Our program has been in existence for 12 years and we are busy!!!!”

—First Judicial District Assistance Corporation

“We were able to reach a great many people and restore faith in the justice system to each and every one. We were able to work with the first transgendered youth in full guardianship of the state undergoing a change due to gender dysphoria in the history of Tennessee. We were also able to provide clothing to children coming in to state’s custody and **started a non-profit to aid** people in the community affected by tragic crime or in the juvenile system.”

—Bailiff Law

“A focus of our work in 2018 was the April raid in Bean Station, Tennessee. Our community education, legal services, and community partnerships were all activated in service of this rural immigrant community. For the first two weeks, **we hosted legal clinics every day** for families, where we provided immigration screenings, assisted in locating relatives, **created powers of attorney for their minors**, and identified other legal issues such as custody and previous criminal charges. Through this and existing communications channels, we anticipate receiving 300 requests for support with removal defense. We will then route people to our network of partners including the Southern Poverty Law Center, Latino Memphis, Community Legal Center, the private bar, or our staff attorney, depending on the case.”

—Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition

“The concept of TN Free Legal Answers is a web-based pro bono clinic for low-income Tennesseans who might otherwise fall through the cracks of receiving legal assistance. Using a web-based platform, qualifying users can post questions about their civil legal needs and receive basic legal information and advice from attorneys. The website is easy-to-use and is convenient for both volunteer attorneys and low-income Tennesseans. The goal of this project is twofold: **to increase access to justice for low-income Tennesseans, particularly in rural areas** and to remove barriers to attorneys providing pro bono services. [In 2018], we worked with law students, corporate counsel, and law firms to help disadvantaged Tennesseans get answers to their legal questions.”

—Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services, on TN Free Legal Answers

“In 2018, we increased our pro bono cases (accepted by pro bono attorneys) by 183% (from 68 cases in 2017 to 193 cases in 2018). We also increased the number of private attorneys accepting pro bono cases by almost 60% in 2018 and the number of private attorneys volunteering at clinics by 80%... In short, we have worked hard to “spread the love” and **go where the need is great** in order to assist more West Tennesseans in receiving legal aid.”

—West Tennessee Legal Services

“We assisted well over 100 people who otherwise would not have been able to afford a lawyer or who generally did not have **access to legal services.**”

—Kingsport Bar Association, LAET Clinic

Tennessee Pro Bono Report 2018

8	Attorney Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting – TN Board of Professional Responsibility
	BPR Summary Data
	Tennessee Attorneys
	All Attorneys and Out-of-State Attorneys

19	Continuing Legal Education (“CLE”) Credit Received by Attorneys for Pro Bono Work in 2018– Continuing Legal Education Commission
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20	Survey Responses
	Bar Associations – Local and Regional Tennessee Bar Associations
	LSC Providers – Legal Services Corporation Funded
	Legal Providers – Non-LSC-Funded & Specialized
	Clinic Providers – Pro Bono Legal Advice Clinics
	Law Schools – Law School Sponsored Pro Bono Programs
	Law Firms – Law Offices with Pro Bono Policies, Pillar Law Firms, and Attorney for Justice Law Offices
	Faith-Based Providers – Tennessee Faith and Justice Alliance
	Mediation Providers – Community Mediation Centers & Rule 31

54	Pro Bono Recognition
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55	Conclusion
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Attorney Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting – Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility

In Tennessee, Supreme Court Rule 8, Section 6.1 defines pro bono service and provides the aspirational goal that attorneys should provide 50 hours each of pro bono service per year. Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 10 requests (but does not require) that every attorney who is required to file an Annual Registration Statement with the Board of Professional Responsibility (“BPR”) also voluntarily file a statement reporting the attorney’s pro bono service and activity during the last calendar year. The BPR provides this voluntary pro bono reporting data to the ATJ Commission for the purposes of this report.

The Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting Form surveys pro bono service in the following four categories:

- Legal services without a fee or at a substantially reduced fee to persons of limited means;
- Legal services without a fee to non-profit organizations serving persons of limited means;
- Legal services to groups and organizations at a reduced fee when payment of standard fees would create a financial hardship; and
- Legal services to improve the law, the legal system, or the legal profession.

This report separates data regarding the self-reported pro bono work of attorneys into two major categories: attorneys whose primary address is located in Tennessee, and attorneys

whose primary address is located outside of Tennessee. The rationale for analyzing the two sets of data separately is that attorneys whose primary address is located outside of Tennessee are more likely to have also completed their pro bono hours outside of Tennessee.

Definitions are provided below.

- “All Attorneys” – all attorneys licensed to practice law in Tennessee regardless of the location of their primary address.
- “Tennessee Attorneys” - all attorneys licensed to practice law in Tennessee whose primary address is located in Tennessee.¹
- “Out-of-State Attorneys” - all attorneys licensed to practice law in Tennessee whose primary address is outside of Tennessee.²

The BPR collects data over the course of a given year during its annual registration period, and this data includes voluntary reporting on pro bono completed during the prior year.³ Attorneys report the pro bono work they performed in 2017 in 2018. Therefore, the 2018 Pro Bono Report considers pro bono work performed by attorneys in 2017 but reported in 2018.⁴ For the purposes of this report, the data is labeled to correspond with the year the pro bono work was reported (“Reporting Year”), not the year the pro bono work was performed.

1 For the purposes of this report, whether an attorney has primary address located in Tennessee is determined by the address that the attorney provides to the BPR in that attorney’s annual reporting statement. An attorney is determined to be a Tennessee attorney if they reported residing in a state with the following abbreviations: TN, Tenn., Tennessee, or Tn.

2 Some reports for attorneys licensed in Tennessee don’t show any city or state in the BPR attorney portal. Some of these attorneys may reside in Tennessee, and some may reside outside of Tennessee but maintain licenses in Tennessee. The BPR captures this information through its annual registration process, and its current registration process does not allow the attorney to skip any of the address requirements. This means there is, and will continue to be, a decreasing amount of licensed attorneys who do not show any city or state in their annual reporting. However, all attorneys who completed their annual reporting statement but did not provide an address on file to the BPR are considered “Out-of-State Attorneys” for the purposes of this report.

3 The ATJ Commission has acquired pro bono reporting data for pro bono work reported in eight calendar years, 2010 to 2018. However, in 2012, the Tennessee Supreme Court approved a change in BPR Registration procedures to require renewals on the first day of each attorney’s birth month. Under this new procedure, pro bono reporting data for the previous calendar year is not available until all reporting for that calendar year has been received. Due to the changes in reporting requirements in 2012, comparison data is not reliable until approximately 2013. Further, in 2018, the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility (“BPR”) upgraded its database which changed the way the BPR generates its reports on annual Pro Bono Reporting data. Because of the changes to the new database, some of the information which was previously captured and reported in Tennessee’s Annual Pro Bono Report is no longer available. Because of these changes, comparison data for the year 2017 may not be reliable.

4 This report only considers attorneys who completed their Annual Registration Statement by or before December 31st, 2018. It does not consider attorneys who failed to complete their Annual Registration Statement by or before December 31st, 2017. There may be additional attorneys who did not file their Annual Registration Statement by or before December 31st, 2017, whose information is not included in this report.

Attorney Voluntary Pro Bono Reporting – Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility

2018 BPR Summary Data

In 2018, 22,293 total Pro Bono Reports were submitted to the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility from the 22,639 total attorneys licensed in Tennessee (“All Attorneys”). Of these reports, 18,073 were submitted by attorneys who reported addresses in the state of Tennessee (“TN Attorneys”), and 4,218 were submitted by attorneys who either reported an address outside the state of Tennessee or did not report an address (“Out-of-State Attorneys”).

As the ATJ Commission is most interested in reviewing and measuring the pro bono work making a positive impact inside the state of Tennessee, this report first reviews the pro bono hours reported by Tennessee Attorneys, and then considers pro bono hours reported by All Attorneys, both Tennessee Attorneys and Out-Of-State Attorneys.

For the second time since the Tennessee Supreme Court began requesting pro bono reporting data, in 2018, more than half of Tennessee Attorneys reported completing pro bono hours. This year, Tennessee saw an increase in the

For only the second time, more than half of Tennessee Attorneys reported completing pro bono hours.



number of Tennessee Attorneys reporting pro bono hours and in the percentage of Tennessee Attorneys reporting pro bono hours. This meant that the percentage of Tennessee Attorneys who reported pro bono in 2017 (51.50%) increased in 2018 by more than one percentage point (52.78%). The number of Tennessee attorneys who reported pro bono in each major category increased as well.

The number of Tennessee attorneys who reported pro bono in each major category increased as well.



Further, in addition to the numbers and percentages of Tennessee Attorneys completing pro bono in 2018, there



For the first time, more than half of All Attorneys reported completing pro bono work.

was a notable increase in the number and percentage of All Attorneys who reported pro bono. For the first time in the history of this report, more than half of All Attorneys licensed in Tennessee, both those with addresses in Tennessee and outside of Tennessee, reported completing pro bono work. This means that 51.15% percent of all attorneys licensed in Tennessee reported completing one or more hour



The total hours of pro bono for All Attorneys is the highest ever reported at 749,217.

of pro bono, a number reflecting a 4% increase from the prior year, up from 47.11%.

Finally, in 2018, the total hours of Pro Bono for All Attorneys licensed in Tennessee shows the highest number ever reported at 749,217 hours. This number reflects an increase of 50,814 hours from the prior year, and an increased value of nearly \$11 million dollars of pro bono services.

Tennessee Attorneys

In 2018, 52.38% of Tennessee Attorneys who completed their Annual Registration Statement for the year reported that they provided 640,958 hours of pro bono service in 2017.⁵ This meant that 9,539 Tennessee Attorneys averaged 67.19 hours per attorney who reported completing pro bono. Assuming an average billing rate of \$215 per hour, this amounts to more than \$137.8 million of pro bono services provided by Tennessee Attorneys in 2018.⁶

In addition to providing pro bono services, 20.60%, or 3,723, of Tennessee Attorneys reported voluntary contributions of financial support to organizations providing legal services to persons of limited means.



Of the 9,539 Tennessee Attorneys who completed 640,958 hours of Pro Bono, each reporting attorney averaged 67.19 hours.

Highlights from Tennessee Attorneys include:

- **In 2018, both the percentage and number of Tennessee Attorneys reporting pro bono increased, yielding both the highest number and highest percentage of Tennessee Attorneys who reported participating in pro bono in the prior year since the ATJC has collected this reporting data.** The number and percentage of active Tennessee Attorneys who reported pro bono hours is set out in the Table One:

Table One

Active TN Attorneys who Reported Completing Pro Bono Hours in 2018	9,539
	52.28%
Active TN Attorneys who did NOT Report Completing Pro Bono Hours in 2018	8,534
	47.22%
Total TN Active Attorneys	18,073
	100%

- Of the 9,539 Tennessee Attorneys who completed 640,958 hours of Pro Bono, each reporting attorney averaged 67.19 hours per attorney who reported completing pro bono. Of the 18,073 total Tennessee attorneys (including those attorneys who reported completing zero hours), 18,073 Tennessee Attorneys averaged 35.46 hours per attorney.
- 2018 reflects an increase of 670 Tennessee Attorneys who reported pro bono from the prior year. These numbers reflect an increase of approximately 1% more attorneys who reported performing pro bono work from the prior year.

⁵ A few attorneys submitted Pro Bono Reports that reported an unusually high amount of Pro Bono (greater than 2080 hours). These reports were handled two ways: (1) if the attorney submitted a report greater than 8,760 hours (the maximum number of hours in an annual year), the unusually high amount of pro bono was determined likely to be a typographical error and the entire report was discarded; (2) all other Pro Bono Reports above 2080 were counted but denoted as outliers. In 2018, two Tennessee attorneys reported more than 8,760 hours of Pro Bono, totaling 29,400 hours. Those hours are not included in this report. If they were to be included in the report, the total for hours for TN Attorneys would be 670,358. The total hours for All Attorneys would be 779,017. Five additional outliers are noted as reporting more than 2080 hours of pro bono work, totaling 11,262 hours. These 11,262 hours are included in the report which is consistent with prior methodology.

⁶ As reported by the Tennessee Bar Association (TBA), hourly billing is still the most widely used pricing structure in Tennessee. Most TBA members (68 percent) reported that they billed clients at an hourly rate, with an average billing rate of \$274 per hour. This hourly rate is 2.6% higher than the average national billing rate. Nonmembers, aligned more with the national trend toward alternative fee arrangements and used different pricing structures. Those nonmembers who used hourly billing rates had an average billing rate of \$215 per hour. For the purposes of this report, billable hours are calculated at a rate of \$215, which is likely a conservative hourly billing estimate for Tennessee based on the TBA data provided. More information can be found here: <https://www.tba.org/journal/stay-relevant>

Tennessee Attorneys

- Attorneys provided the most pro bono hours to persons of limited means without a fee or at a reduced fee. Specifically, in 2018, 7,784 attorneys provided 442,000 hours of pro bono services to persons of limited means. Assuming an average billing rate of \$215 per hour, these hours would amount to approximately \$95,030,000 million of free or reduced fee legal services provided to disadvantaged Tennesseans by Tennessee Attorneys. The table below shows the breakdown of pro bono hours by type as reported by Tennessee Attorneys during the 2018 Reporting Year.
- Of attorneys who reported providing legal services to persons of limited means without a fee or at a reduced fee, the average number of hours reported per attorney was 56.78 hours. The average number of hours provided by the other three categories of pro bono service was approximately 30 hours for each category, with groups and organizations at a reduced fee the highest at 34.4 hours. Table Two shows a breakdown of the number of Tennessee Attorneys reporting per pro bono category for the 2018 Reporting Year:
- Since 2012, the ATJ Commission has tracked the numbers of hours provided by Tennessee Attorneys. In both

Table Two

Pro Bono Category	Number of Attorneys Reporting*	Total Number of Reported Hours	Average Hours per Reporting Attorney	Percent of Total Hours Reported
Legal services to persons of limited means without a fee or at a substantially reduced fee	7,784	442,000	56.78	70%
Legal services to non-profit organizations serving persons of limited means without a fee	3,145	93,810	29.83	15%
Legal services to groups and organizations at a reduced fee when payment of standard fees would create a financial hardship	1,220	41,969	34.40	7%
Legal services to improve the law, the legal system, or the legal profession	2,067	63,179	30.57	10%
Total	14,216	640,958	45.09	

**The total of this column will be greater than the total number of Tennessee Attorneys reporting pro bono work because attorneys can report pro bono service in multiple categories.*

2012 and 2017, the method for calculating the data provided by the BPR regarding Tennessee Attorneys changed, which impacts that reporting year's data. Specifically, the 2017 data marked the highest number of hours provided of pro bono in each major category in the past five years. The total hours reported in 2017 by Tennessee Attorneys reflected an increase from the prior year of 45,081 hours provided to persons of limited means without a fee or at a reduced fee. This percent increase of 11.02% nearly doubled the percent increase of 5.9% from the prior year. The 2018 data reflects a stabilization of that year's data, with numbers closer to prior reporting years. That stabilization could be a result of increased accuracy by attorneys as they voluntarily report their own pro bono hours or, more likely, is a result of increased accuracy in the calculation of total hours reported by Tennessee Attorneys as reflected in this report.

Tennessee Attorneys

- Table Three shows a comparison of Tennessee Attorneys' reported hours from the 2013 through 2018 Reporting Years:

Table Three

Hours Reported by TN Attorneys Per Reporting Year	Persons of limited means w/o fee or reduced fee	Non-profit orgs serving persons of limited means w/o fee	Groups/orgs at reduced fee when payment of standard fees would create hardship	Improve the law, legal system, or legal profession	Total for All Categories
2013 Total Hours Reported	407,486	74,478	35,521	58,275	575,760
2014 Total Hours Reported	396,239	78,619	37,717	66,069	578,644
2015 Total Hours Reported	386,009	79,114	35,883	67,164	568,170
2016 Total Hours Reported	408,939	83,528	36,960	61,637	591,064
2017 Total Hours Reported	454,020	85,270	43,223	70,042	652,555
2018 Total Hours Reported	442,000	93,810	41,969	63,179	640,958

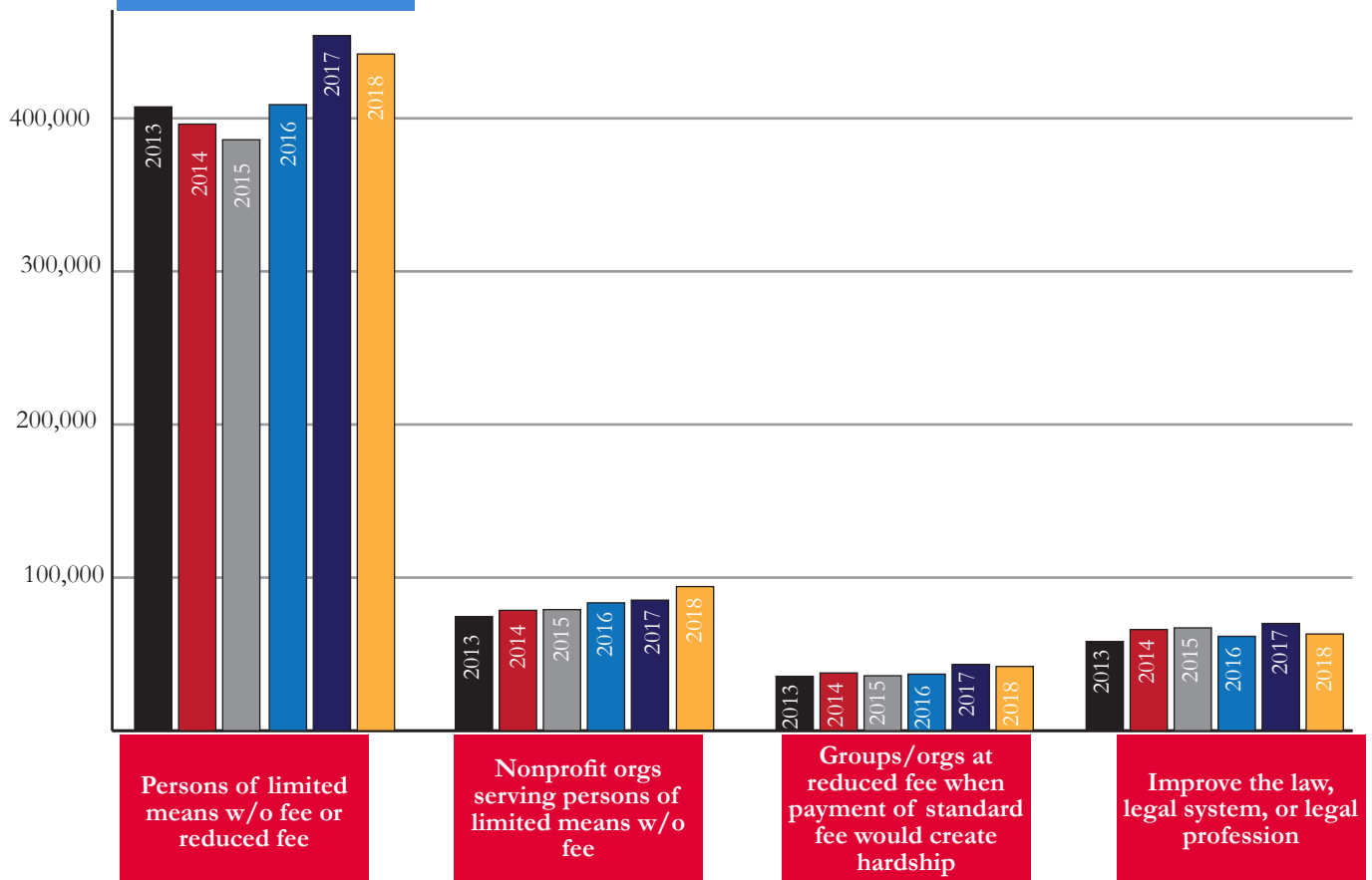
- Of the total pro bono hours reported by Tennessee Attorneys in 2018, the percent distribution for each major category remains largely consistent from the prior year. Table Four shows a comparison of the percentage of hours reported by Tennessee Attorneys for each pro bono category for 2013 through 2018 Reporting Years.
- Chart Five shows a comparison of hours reported by Tennessee Attorneys for each pro bono category for the 2013-2016 Reporting Years. Of the total pro bono hours reported by Tennessee Attorneys in 2018, the percent distribution for each major category remains largely consistent from the prior year. Table Four shows a comparison of the percentage of hours reported by Tennessee Attorneys for each pro bono category for 2013 through 2018 Reporting Years.
- For the first time, in 2018, the BPR reported to the ATJ Commission data voluntarily provided by attorneys during their BPR reporting on the basis of gender. Using this data, the ATJ Commission was able to consider trends which may be useful when comparing national averages. Of TN Attorneys who reported their gender in their Annual Registration Statement, 6,257 (55.88%) of 11,196 total male attorneys and 2,941 (48.82%) of 6,094 total female attorneys reported providing one or more hours of pro bono services in 2018.

Tennessee Attorneys

Table Four

	Persons of limited means w/o fee or reduced fee	Non-profit orgs serving persons of limited means w/o fee	Groups/orgs at reduced fee when standard fees would create hardship	Improve the law, legal system, or legal profession
2013 Total Hours Reported	70.77%	12.94%	6.17%	10.12%
2014 Total Hours Reported	68.48%	13.59%	6.52%	11.42%
2015 Total Hours Reported	67.94%	13.92%	6.32%	11.82%
2016 Total Hours Reported	69.18%	14.13%	6.25%	10.42%
2017 Total Hours Reported	69.58%	13.07%	6.62%	10.73%
2018 Total Hours Reported	68.96%	14.64%	6.57%	9.86%

Chart Five



Tennessee Attorneys

- Also for the first time, in 2018, the BPR reported to the ATJ Commission data provided by attorneys during their BPR reporting on the basis of county. Using this data, the ATJ Commission was able to identify certain areas of the state where proportionally high numbers of Tennessee Attorneys reported completing pro bono using three different evaluation metrics. **Three TN counties reported that 100% of their attorneys provided pro bono, and these counties were Lake County, Hancock County, and Van Buren County. In addition, 70% or more of TN Attorneys in 19 other counties provide pro bono services: Marshall, Jackson, White, Houston, Grundy, Fentress, Henderson, Lewis, Wayne, Monroe, Meigs, McNairy, Loudon, Hardin, DeKalb, Sequatchie, Haywood, Carter.**
- Table Six shows the Top 20 Counties for Pro Bono in Tennessee on three different metrics: (1) Greatest number of attorneys who reported pro bono and reported residences in that county (“Most Attorneys Reporting Pro Bono”), (2) Highest percentage of the number of attorneys who reported providing pro bono in the county from the total number of attorneys who reported residing in the county (“Top Percentage of Attorneys Providing Pro Bono”), and (3) Highest percentage of attorneys providing pro bono based on the total population of the county in 2018 (Top Attorneys Providing Pro Bono Per Capita.”

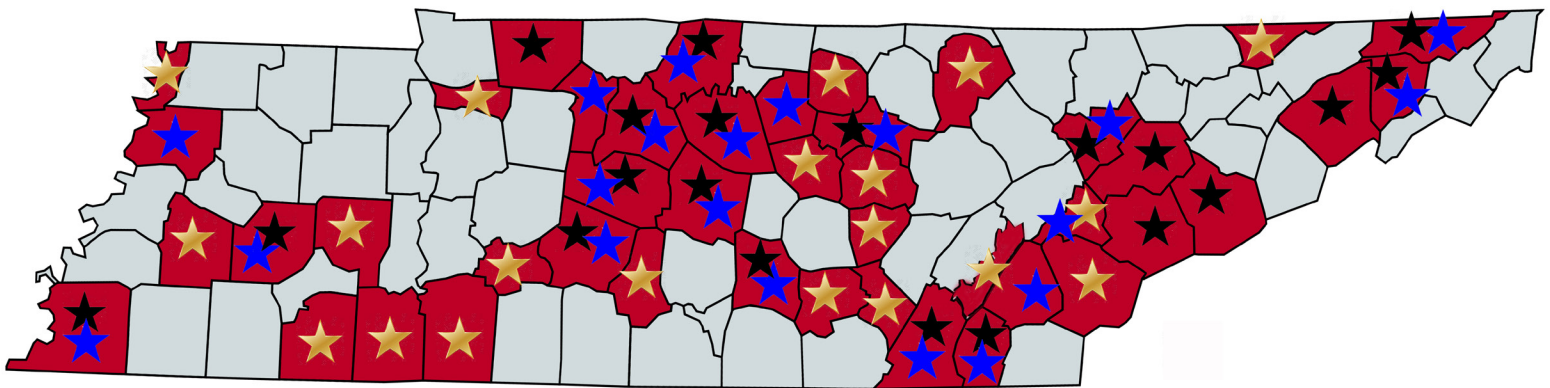
Table Six

	Most Attorneys Reporting Pro Bono	Top Percentage of Attorneys Providing Pro Bono	Top Attorneys Providing Pro Bono Per Capita
1	Davidson	Lake	Madison
2	Shelby	Hancock	Davidson
3	Knox	Van Buren	Williamson
4	Hamilton	Marshall	Maury
5	Williamson	Jackson	Knox
6	Rutherford	White	Shelby
7	Sullivan	Houston	Hamilton
8	Sumner	Grundy	Putnam
9	Montgomery	Fentress	Washington
10	Washington	Henderson	Sullivan
11	Madison	Lewis	McMinn
12	Wilson	Wayne	Coffee
13	Blount	Monroe	Wilson
14	Putnam	Meigs	Dyer
15	Bradley	McNairy	Sumner
16	Maury	Loudon	Anderson
17	Sevier	Hardin	Cheatham
18	Anderson	DeKalb	Smith
19	Coffee	Sequatchie	Rutherford
20	Green	Haywood	Bradley

Tennessee Attorneys

The map below visually displays the counties identified as a Top 20 County for Pro Bono Service in Tennessee as identified in Table Six. This visual display is interesting because it highlights how many of the counties reporting high pro bono service appear geographically grouped in clusters through the entire state.

Tennessee Counties Recognized for Number of Attorneys Providing Pro Bono Services



County recognized for the most attorneys reporting pro bono



County recognized for top percentage of attorneys providing pro bono



County recognized for the most attorneys providing pro bono per capita

All Attorneys

In 2018, 51.15% of All Attorneys who completed their Annual Registration Statement for the year reported that they provided 749,217 hours of pro bono service in 2017.⁷ This number reflected a 4% increase in attorney participation from the prior year, and an increase in total hours by more than 50,000 hours. This calculation includes the data for both Tennessee Attorneys and Out-of-State Attorneys.⁸

Highlights from All Attorneys and Out-of-State Attorneys include:

- In 2018, for the first time both the percentage and number of All Attorneys reporting pro bono increased over 50%. Further, the total hours reported in 2018 by All Attorneys increased significantly from prior years, reaching more than 700,000 hours for the first time in reporting history.
- The number and percentage of All Attorneys who reported pro bono hours, reported zero pro bono hours, and declined to report pro bono hours is set out in Table Seven:


 In 2018, for the first time both the percentage and number of All Attorneys reporting pro bono increased over 50%.

Table Seven

All Attorneys who Reported Completing Pro Bono Hours in 2018	11,403
	51.15%
All Attorneys who Reported Completing Zero Pro Bono Hours in 2018	7,708
	34.58%
All Attorneys who did not Report Completing Pro Bono Hours in 2018	3,180
	14.27%
Total Active Attorneys in TN	22,291
	100%

- Of the 11,403 of All Attorneys who completed 749,217 hours of Pro Bono, each reporting attorney averaged 65.70 hours per attorney who reported completing pro bono. Of the 22,291 total attorneys who submitted reports to the BPR (including those attorneys who reported completing zero hours), 22,291 of All Attorneys averaged 33.61 hours per attorney.
- 2018 reflects an increase of 2,892 of All Attorneys who reported pro bono from the prior year. These numbers reflect an increase of approximately 4% more attorneys who reported performing pro bono work from the prior year.
- All Attorneys reported providing the vast majority of their pro bono hours to persons of limited means without a fee

⁷ A few attorneys submitted Pro Bono Reports that reported an unusually high amount of Pro Bono (greater than 2080 hours). These reports were handled two ways: (1) if the attorney submitted a report greater than 8,760 hours, the unusually high amount of pro bono was determined likely to be a typographical error and the entire report was discarded; (2) all other Pro Bono Reports above 2080 were counted but denoted as outliers. In 2018, no Out-of-State Attorneys reported more than 8,760 or 2,080 hours of Pro Bono.

⁸ All attorneys who completed their annual reporting statement but did not provide an address on file to the BPR are considered “Out-of-State Attorneys” for the purposes of this report. 102 attorneys did not provide an address to the BPR. These 102 attorneys reported 387 total hours of pro bono service in 2018.

All Attorneys

or at a reduced fee. Specifically, in 2018, 9,165 of All Attorneys provided 504,986 hours of pro bono services to persons of limited means. Assuming an average billing rate of \$215 per hour, this would amount to approximately \$108,571,990 of free or reduced fee legal services provided to disadvantaged persons by All Attorneys.⁹

- Table Eight shows a breakdown of the number of All Attorneys reporting per pro bono category for the 2018 report:

Table Eight				
Pro Bono Category	Number of Attorneys Reporting*	Total Number of Reported Hours	Average Hours per Reporting Attorney	Percent of Total Hours Reported
Legal services to persons of limited means without a fee or at a substantially reduced fee	9,165	504,986	55.10	67.40%
Legal services to non-profit organizations serving persons of limited means without a fee	3,786	117,140	30.94	15.68%
Legal services to groups and organizations at a reduced fee when payment of standard fees would create a financial hardship	1,429	51,211	35.84	6.84%
Legal services to improve the law, the legal system, or the legal profession	2512	75,880	30.21	10.13%

**The total of this column will be greater than the total number of attorneys reporting pro bono work because attorneys can report pro bono service in multiple categories.*

- Of All Attorneys who reported providing legal services to persons of limited means without a fee or at a reduced fee, the average number of hours reported per attorney was 55.10 hours.
- For the first time, in 2018, the BPR reported to the ATJ Commission data voluntarily provided by attorneys during their BPR reporting on the basis of gender. Using this data, the ATJ Commission was able to consider trends which may be useful when comparing national averages. Of All Attorneys who reported their gender in their Annual Registration Statement, 7,496 (54.28%) of 13,089 total male attorneys and 3,509 (46.56%) of 7,553 total female attorneys reported providing one or more hours of pro bono services in 2018.
- Further, 44.19% of Out-of-State Attorneys for the year reported that they provided 108,259 hours of pro bono. This

54% of male attorneys and 46% of female attorneys reported doing pro bono.



⁹ For the purposes of this report, billable hours are calculated at a rate of \$215, which is likely a conservative hourly billing estimate for Tennessee based on the TBA data provided in Footnote 10. More information can be found here: <https://www.tba.org/journal/stay-relevant>

All Attorneys

means 1,864 Out-of-State Attorneys averaged 58.08 hours of pro bono per reporting attorney. Table Nine shows a breakdown of the number of Out-of-State Attorneys reporting per pro bono category for the 2018 reporting year.

- For the first time, in 2018, the BPR reported to the ATJ Commission data voluntarily provided by attorneys during

Table Nine

Pro Bono Category	Number of Attorneys Reporting*	Total Number of Reported Hours	Average Hours per Reporting Attorney	Percent of Total Hours Reported
Legal services to persons of limited means without a fee or at a substantially reduced fee	1,381	62,986	45.61	58.18%
Legal services to non-profit organizations serving persons of limited means without a fee	641	23,330	36.40	21.55%
Legal services to groups and organizations at a reduced fee when standard fees would create a financial hardship	209	9,242	44.22	8.53%
Legal services to improve the law, the legal system, or the legal profession	445	12,701	28.54	11.73%

**The total of this column will be greater than the total number of attorneys reporting pro bono work because attorneys can report pro bono service in multiple categories.*

their BPR reporting on the basis of gender. Using this data, the ATJ Commission was able to consider trends which may be useful when comparing national averages. Of Out-Of-State Attorneys who reported their gender in their Annual Registration Statement, 1,239 (47.41%) of male attorneys and 568 (38.93%) of female attorneys reported providing one or more hours of pro bono services in 2018.

- Also for the first time, in 2018, the BPR reported to the ATJ Commission data provided by attorneys during their BPR reporting on the basis of state. Using this data, the ATJ Commission was able to identify certain states where proportionally high numbers of Out-of-State Attorneys reported completing pro bono.

Attorneys residing in the Southeast reported the most Out-of-State pro bono. The most pro bono was provided by states that neighbored Tennessee, with seven out of eight neighboring states reporting 70 or more attorneys who completed pro bono in Tennessee. Eight neighboring states together totaled 1,060 Out-of-State Attorneys or 56.86% of all Out-of-State attorneys who reported completing pro bono in 2018.



The most pro bono was provided by neighboring states, with seven out of eight neighboring states reporting 70 or more attorneys who completed pro bono in Tennessee.

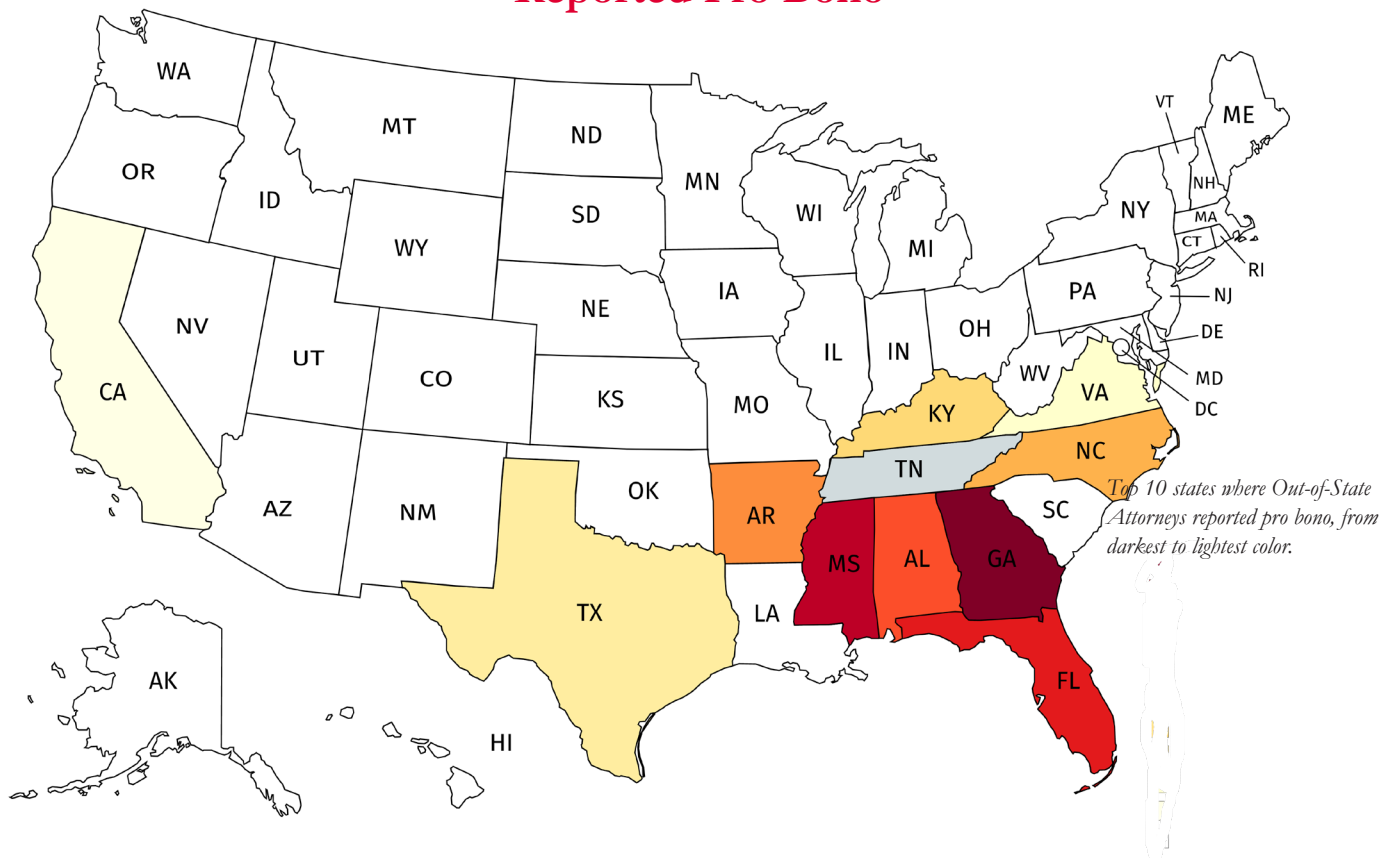
All Attorneys

- The top 10 states where Out-of-State Attorneys reported pro bono (in order from greatest to fewest) were Georgia, Mississippi, Florida, Alabama, Arkansas, North Carolina, Kentucky, Texas, Virginia, and California. These top ten states totaled 1,357 or 72.80% of all Out-of-State attorneys who reported completing pro bono in 2018.



These top ten states totaled 1,357 or 72.80% of all Out-of-State attorneys who reported completing pro bono in 2018.

The Top 10 States Where Out-of-State Attorneys Reported Pro Bono



- Finally, 657 (15.57%) of Out-of-State Attorneys reported voluntary contributions of financial support to organizations providing legal services to persons of limited means.

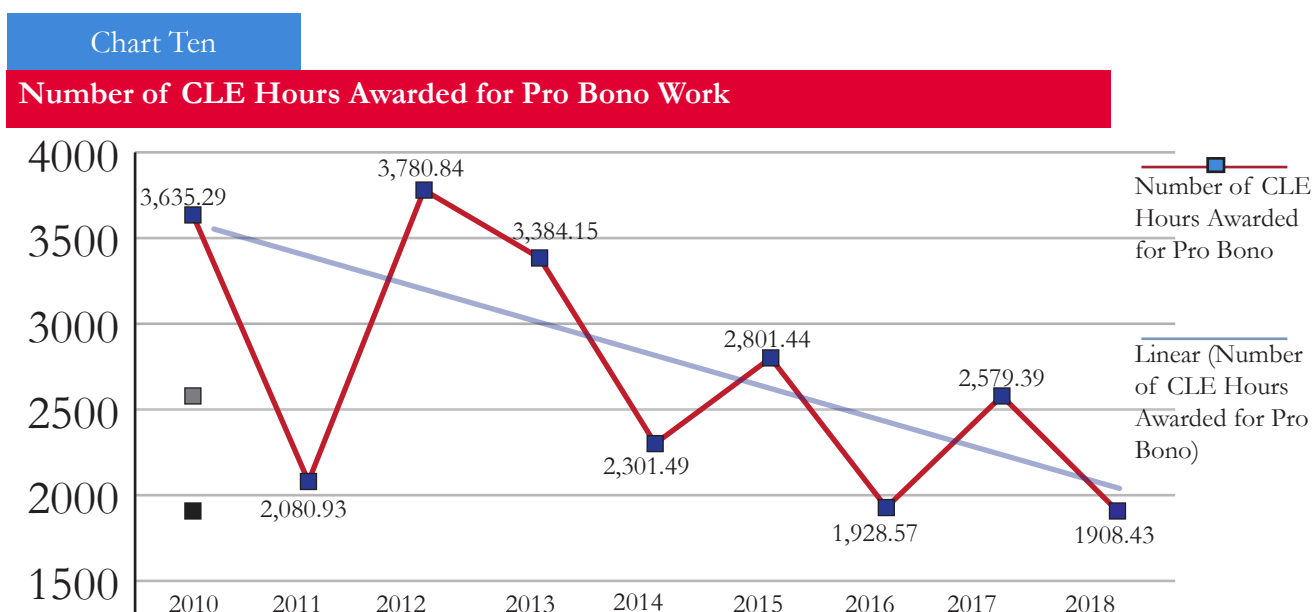
Continuing Legal Education

Supreme Court Rule 21, Section 4.08(c) permits the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education (“CLE Commission”) to give Ethics & Professionalism credit at the rate of one hour of CLE credit for every five billable hours of pro bono legal representation provided. Qualifying pro bono may be provided through court appointment or an organized bar association program or legal services organization, or of pro bono mediation services as required by Supreme Court Rule 31 or the Federal Court Mediation Programs.

The CLE Commission awarded 1,908.43 hours of CLE credit to 1,083 attorneys for pro bono work in the 2018 Reporting Year. It is important to note that as opposed to the BPR reporting data, the CLE data is for pro bono work both performed and reported in 2018.

Highlights of CLE hours awarded include:

- The 2018 data reflects both a decreased number of attorneys received credit and a decreased amount of CLE Credit for pro bono work by comparison to the 2017 year. However, the number of hours awarded per attorney increased slightly from 2017 to 2018, from 1.76 hours of CLE credit awarded per attorney in 2017 to 1.76 (1.8) hours of CLE credit awarded per attorney in 2018..
- The 2018 data continues a trend for a declining number of CLE hours awarded for pro bono work. In fact, 2018 saw less CLE hours awarded for pro bono work than in either of the prior two years. Chart Ten shows the breakdown of CLE hours awarded for pro bono work in the prior years:



The declining number of CLE Credit awarded to attorneys licensed in Tennessee is an interesting trend given the continued increase in numbers and hours of All Attorneys licensed in Tennessee reporting pro bono. The trend could possibly suggest that the increase in pro bono over the past few years is not driven by whether CLE Credit is awarded for those same pro bono hours.

Survey Responses

Using www.surveymonkey.com, the Pro Bono Coordinator surveyed the following organizations about their pro bono initiatives and efforts completed in the 2018 calendar year: Bar Associations, LSC-Funded Legal Service Providers, Non-LSC Funded Legal Service Providers, Pro Bono Legal Clinics, Law Schools, Law Firms, Tennessee Faith and Justice Alliance Members, and Mediation Providers. Through these surveys, the ATJ Commission collected 125 responses from partners across the state.

The survey data charted on pages 22-24 is a compilation of all the charts that follow.



In 2018, the ATJ Commission strategically redesigned its Pro Bono Report Surveys with a focus on developing consistent comparison

data. The new surveys, which were modeled from prior Tennessee Pro Bono Reports, partner feedback, and new questions introduced by the ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public Service's publication, *Supporting Justice: A Report on the Work of America's Lawyers* (the "ABA Report").¹⁰ The new surveys prioritize tracking consistent data points and common reporting language for future Tennessee reporting and future national reporting.

The information and corresponding charts that follow highlight several questions consistently asked of all or nearly all of our partners. Following a methodology developed in our 2017 Report, for the 2018 Pro Bono Report Survey, we asked the same specific free-response questions of all or nearly all partners. We have highlighted some of that information in the pages that follow. These questions included asking all, or nearly all, partners to provide us with their mission or primary purpose, major accomplishments or successes of their pro bono work, any new pro bono work with which they were affiliated, and any plans to expand pro bono impact in the future.

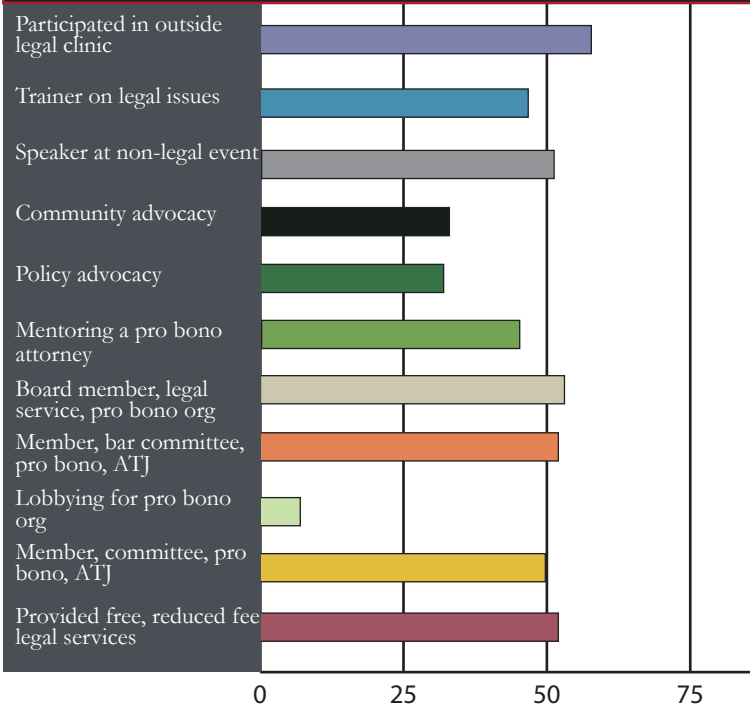
We also specifically asked four questions taken either directly or indirectly from the ABA Report of all or nearly all of our partners in order to continue to track and further refine and develop the work originally considered by that report. These specific results are considered in the aggregate for each category of partner, and then specifically considered by category of partner through the remainder of the report. Companion Charts for these questions help illustrate some of the responses we observed, and are intended to specifically help us identify what types of pro bono participation our partners are doing, who we are serving, and who is doing specific types of pro bono tasks in Tennessee.¹¹



We asked the same specific free-response questions of nearly all partners as we did last year.

Chart 11

Types of pro bono activities performed by all groups surveyed:



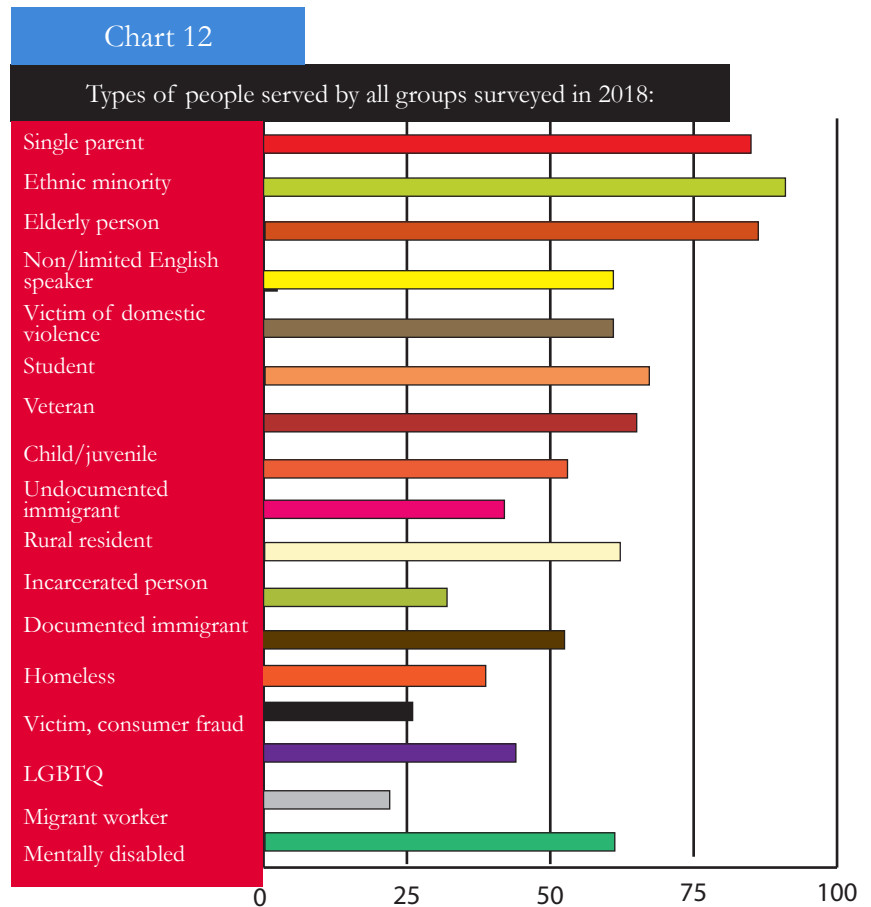
¹⁰ "Supporting Justice: A Report on the Work of America's Lawyers", ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public Service, Copyright 2018 American Bar Association. The entire report can be viewed here: https://www.americanbar.org/content/dam/aba/administrative/probono_public_service/lc_pb_supporting_justice_iv_final.authcheckdam.pdf

¹¹ We have shortened many of the indexes for the Charts in this section and the sections that follow. However, the full survey data is available by request.

Survey Responses

We are pleased to provide the compilation data for multiple partners in this report. Our compilation data reveals some interesting trends highlighted below:

- We asked six out of the eight categories of partners to describe the types of pro bono completed by their members in 2018. More than half of all respondents reported that they provided legal services without a fee or at a substantially reduced fee to persons of limited means. Additionally, forty or more respondents indicated that they participated in a legal clinic outside of their regular job duties, as a trainer or teacher on legal issues, of served as a speaker at a legal education event for non-lawyers. Chart 11 shows the breakdown of partners reporting that their membership participated in various categories of pro bono activities.
- We asked all eight categories of partners to identify several categories of underserved, disadvantaged, or vulnerable Tennesseans served by their organizations, agencies, or firms in 2018. Our data revealed that the most frequent responses were a single parent, an ethnic minority, or an elderly person, with more than half of respondents selecting each category. Other frequently served Tennesseans were non or limited English speakers, victims of domestic violence, students, veterans, and rural residents.



The groups most commonly served by attorneys pro bono were ethnic minorities, the elderly, and single parents.



The chart below highlights some of the people served by our partners through pro bono services in 2018.

- We asked seven of the eight categories of partners to identify specific types of pro bono legal tasks performed by their members in 2018. Here, more than half of respondents indicated that they reviewed or drafted documents, interviewed

or met with the client, provided advice, and referred to other organizations. Other frequently selected answers were writing letters on behalf of the client and speaking with other attorneys. Chart 13 highlights aggregate categories of pro bono service reported by partners through pro bono services in 2018.

- Finally, we asked five of our eight categories of partners if they specialized in any particular areas of law so that we could get a better idea of the types of services being performed across Tennessee by various categories of partners. The most frequently selected category was family law, followed by consumer, domestic violence, elder law, health and benefits, and juvenile/education. Chart 14 shows the breakdown of partners reporting that their staff and volunteer attorneys provide services in specific categories of law.



The most common activity attorneys did pro bono was provide advice, met with clients, or make a key referral

Survey Responses

By tracking the same questions from year to year, we are able to measure trends and changes more effectively over a period of years. As 2018 was our second year asking this specific set of questions, much of the aggregate data looks similar from 2017 to 2018. However, the aggregate data reveals some shifts from year to year that are worth mentioning.

Notably, in both 2017 and 2018, more than 50% of respondents reported participating in an outside legal clinic or speaking at a non-legal event about legal issues. In 2018 both training on legal issues and mentoring pro bono attorneys dropped to below 50%, and serving as a board member or committee member for a legal service or Access to Justice related organization increased to over 50%. Providing free or reduced fee legal services also increased to over 50%, which was a dramatic increase from the prior year.

Further, single parents, ethnic minorities, and elderly persons continued to be the most commonly served categories of persons who were served by pro bono in 2018. These were also the three most commonly served categories of people in 2017, but no one category was selected by respondents more than 70% of the time in 2017, where each category was selected more than 75% of the time in 2018. Additionally, in 2018, more than double the total categories of people served were selected by 50% or more of respondents compared to the prior year.

In addition to expanding the different types of people served by pro bono in 2017 across the board, more types of tasks were identified by more respondents in 2018. Four categories of tasks were identified by more than 75% of respondents, where the most commonly selected tasks were chosen less than 70% of the time in 2017. Further, more respondents reported reviewing or drafting documents than speaking with other attorneys, which was a change from the prior year.

Finally, again in 2018, family law was by far the most common area of law in which respondents reported providing service with no change reported from the prior year in this area.

Chart 13

Types of tasks performed by all pro bono attorneys surveyed in 2018:

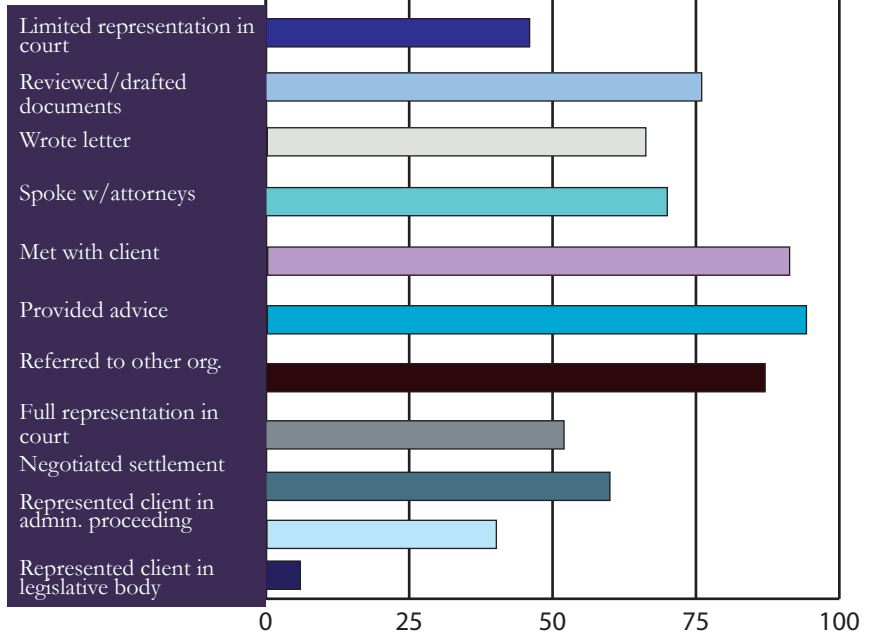
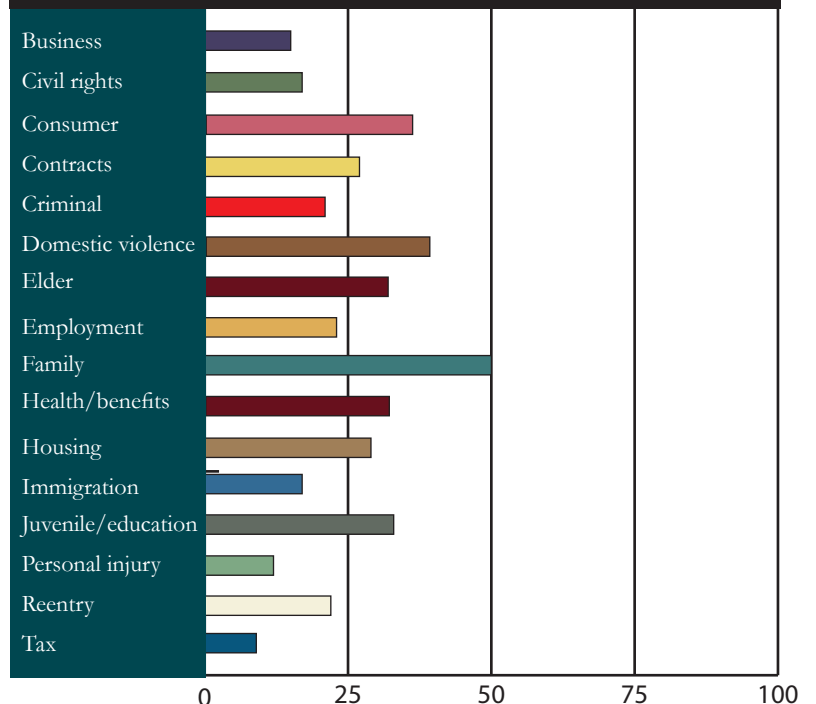


Chart 14

Areas of law volunteers provided pro bono services in during 2018:



Bar Associations

Most counties, metro areas, and many communities across Tennessee have bar associations that serve as resources for local attorneys, courts, and the public. Across the state, Bar associations in Tennessee (“Bar Associations”) prioritize advancing the highest values of the legal profession.

Starting in 2018, we added a specific question to our Pro Bono Surveying designed to collect the self-reported descriptions by bar associations of the important work they do in their communities. In response to this year’s survey, one local bar association described its primary service as “an organization of attorneys and judges whose purpose is to promote professionalism, collegiality, diversity and integrity in the legal system. It serves as a valuable resource to its members and the public by facilitating relationships, encouraging interaction, providing access to justice and offering educational and wellness programs to support members’ efforts to reach their personal and professional goals..”

Another bar association said that they “provide service to the public specifically including access to justice legal aid events. Provide a service to our members to further educate them on our local practice and procedure, as well as provide them with a social setting to engage with one another.”

A third bar association said that they “consistently [provide] services to lawyers and [have] helped make the practice of law better for its members by providing continuing legal education programs and opportunities to serve the community.”

Many Bar Associations offer volunteer opportunities for attorneys to provide pro bono and/or reduced fee services. Bar Associations are particularly valuable resources to pro bono initiatives statewide as each Bar Association has unique knowledge about its community and ways to mobilize the local bar for initiatives such as clinics, pro se days, and larger statewide initiatives.

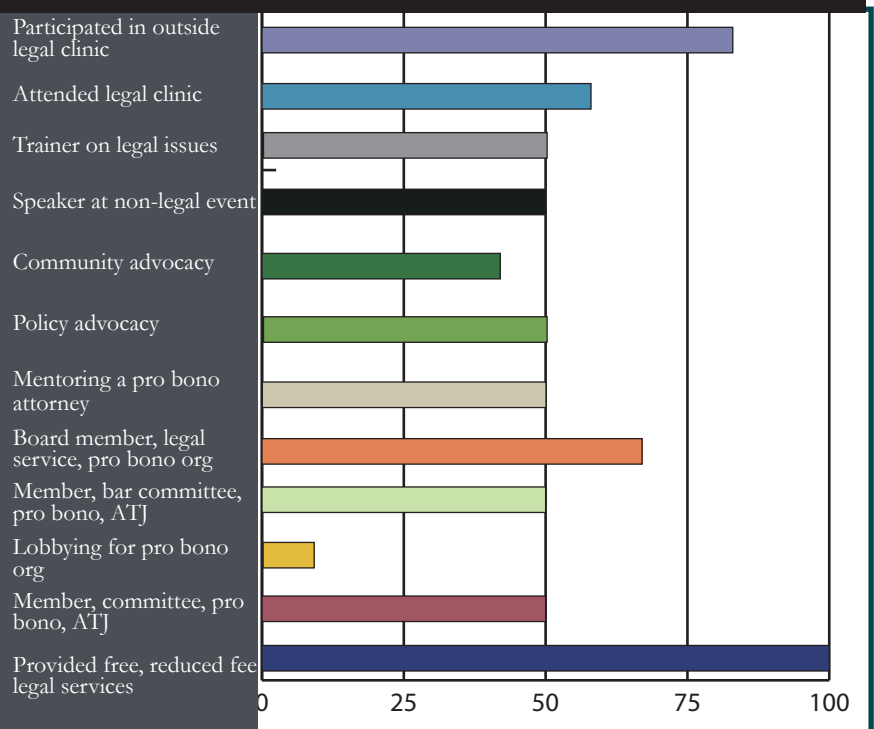
This report considers responses from 15 Bar Associations across Tennessee.

Highlights from Bar Associations include:

- Fifteen Bar Associations reported an estimated average of 58 attorneys per bar association who volunteer for pro bono programs and 63 average additional volunteers for pro bono programs per bar association (individuals who are not attorneys but volunteer through the bar association programs). These reporting Bar Associations total nearly 1,000 total volunteers for pro bono programs through reporting Bar Associations, or 10% of their total membership.
- Ten Bar Associations reported that at least 25% of their membership participated in pro bono activities, and eight Bar Associations

Chart 15

To your knowledge, did one or more members of your Bar Association participate in any of the following pro bono activities in 2017?



Bar Associations

reported that at least 50% of their membership participated in pro bono activities.

- Twelve Bar Associations reported that one or more of their members participated in some form of pro bono in 2018. The majority of Bar Associations reported that their members participated in a legal clinic outside of regular job duties or provided legal services without a fee or at a substantially reduced fee to persons of limited means. Chart 15 shows the breakdown of Bar Associations reporting that their membership participates in pro bono activities:
- 5 Bar Associations estimated a total of 169 hours of pro bono to individuals, 6 Bar Associations estimated a total of 115 hours of pro bono to organizations, 4 Bar Associations estimated a total of 124 hours of limited scope representation, and 4 Bar Associations estimated a total of 100 hours of full representation.
- Nine Bar Associations identified one or more categories of disadvantaged or vulnerable Tennesseans served by their membership in 2018. Bar Associations most frequently reported serving a single parent, an ethnic minority, or an elderly person. Chart 16 highlights some of the people served by Bar Associations through pro bono services in 2018.
- Ten Bar Associations identified one or more categories of legal tasks provided by their memberships in 2018. The most frequent type of pro bono legal tasks provided were interviewing or meeting with the client, providing advice, or referring to other organizations. Chart 17 highlights some categories of pro bono service reported by Bar Associations through pro bono services in 2018.
- Eleven Bar Associations reported that

Chart 16

Please select if you served one or more of the following persons through pro bono programs in 2017:

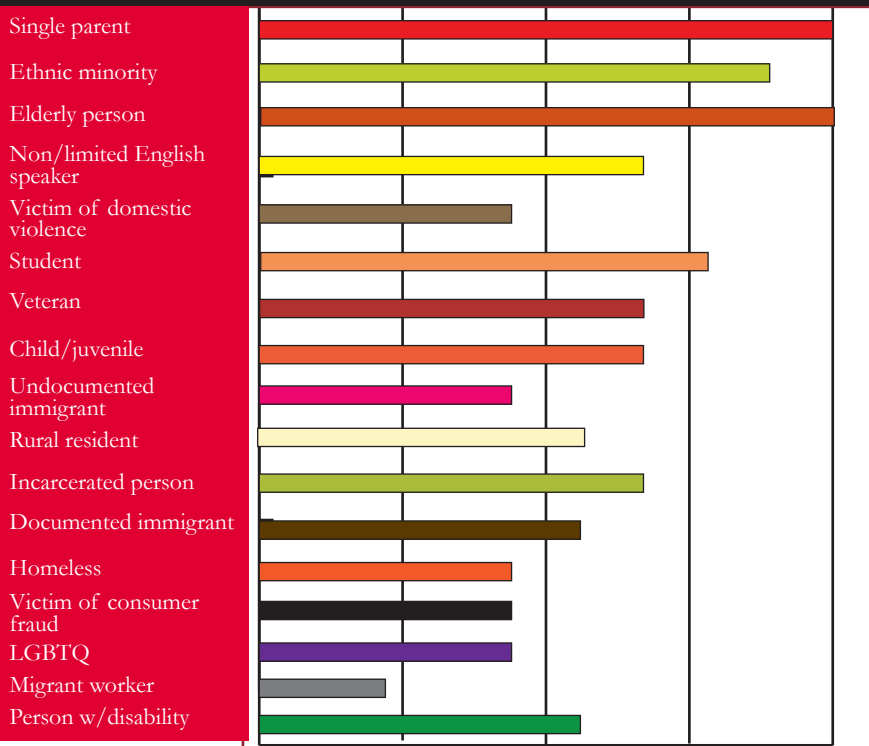
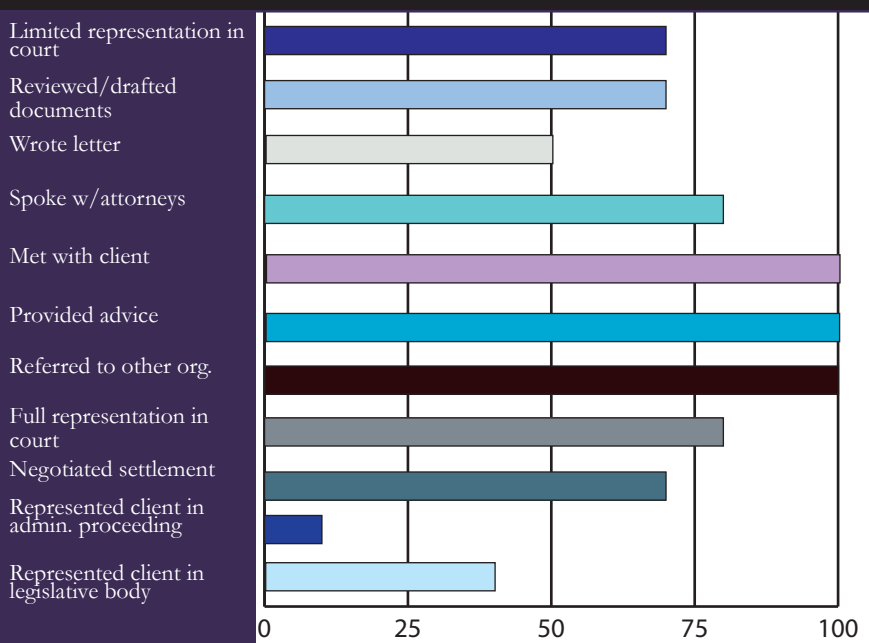


Chart 17

What types of pro bono legal tasks did attorneys in your Bar Association provide in 2017?



Bar Associations

they actively encourage pro bono participation to their memberships. The most frequent way Bar Associations report encouraging pro bono participation is through pro bono recognition programs, Bar Association pro bono programming, and by providing lists of available opportunities.

Several Bar Associations reported specific initiatives:

- The **Knoxville Bar Association** reported that the Knoxville Barristers continued to sponsor monthly veterans legal advice clinics and quarterly Faith & Justice and Debt Relief Legal Clinics. Lawyers and law students who participate in these clinics may not typically take a pro bono case through Legal Aid of East Tennessee or through one of the local law schools, so this project has been successful at increasing the number of lawyers performing pro bono legal services through legal advice clinics.
- The **Napier Looby Bar Association** reported that Napier-Looby hosted a free legal clinic in collaboration with the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and Watson Grove Baptist. The bar association will have another free clinic focused on wills and estates in the fall of 2019. Through encouraging members to participate in legal clinics/pro bono opportunities, Napier-Looby extended its expertise to individuals and communities beyond its primary membership base.
- The **Memphis Bar Association** reported that it continued the 2nd Saturday Free Legal Clinic, which is now in its 12th year of operation. It also supported the Veteran's Legal Clinic held monthly and assisted with expungement and restoration of rights clinics. The Memphis Bar Association combined a training on common pro bono issues with a pro bono recognition luncheon in October 2018, that was well attended. Additionally, the Memphis Bar Association reported that it received a Tennessee Legal Initiatives Fund (TILF) grant from the Tennessee Bar Foundation to create a portal/app for those seeking legal help/advice. The goal is to help them get the assistance they need more efficiently and quickly. The bar association hopes to address the needs of indigent clients by working with the courts on affidavits of indigency.
- The **Nashville Bar Association** reported that it conducts a two hour service once a month for the public to call in and speak with an attorney at no cost.
- The **Blount County Bar Association** reported that unserved members of the community were provided with free or low cost services. It reported that it would be helpful to have a database of pro bono opportunities that could be updated by providers in each county so that attorneys and law students had one place to go to volunteer.
- The **Cheatham County Bar Association** reported that it is a small bar, currently not very active which means there is not coordinated pro bono work by the bar association; however, the bar association reports that most of the attorneys do provide services in the community.

Legal Services Corporation Funded

In Tennessee, there are four primary legal aid providers that receive federal funding from the Legal Services Corporation (“LSC”) to provide general civil legal help regionally in Tennessee (“LSC Providers”).¹² These organizations are Legal Aid of East Tennessee, Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland, Memphis Area Legal Services, and West Tennessee Legal Services. These LSC Providers play an integral role in providing Access to Justice in the state and in matching pro bono clients with attorneys through their staff and pro bono networks.

Starting in 2018, we added a specific question to our Pro Bono Surveying designed to collect the self-reported descriptions by LSC Providers of the important work they do in their communities. In response to this year’s survey, one LSC Provider described its mission and primary service as “to advance, defend, and enforce the legal rights of low-income and vulnerable people in order to secure for them the basic necessities of life.”

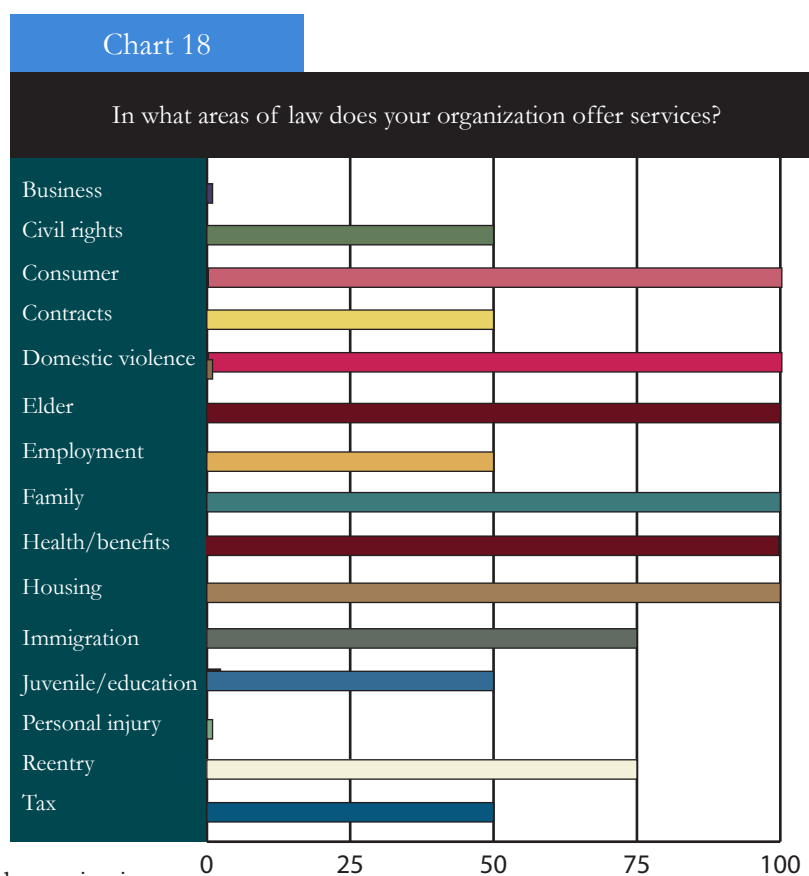
Other LSC Providers provided similar descriptions of their work including “providing excellence in legal advocacy for those in need” and “strengthening communities and changing lives through high-quality legal services.”

In addition to direct services provided by LSC Provider staff, many LSC Providers offer pro bono clinic programs and opportunities for volunteer attorneys to provide pro bono and/or reduced fee services. LSC Providers provide critical services and leadership to the state of Tennessee, both through their staff and pro bono programs.

This report considers responses from all LSC Providers in Tennessee.

Highlights from LSC Providers include:

- LSC Providers reported having 234 staff members including 99 staff attorneys. The organizations reported 1,224 volunteers for pro bono programs, including 1,098 pro bono attorneys for programs in 2018. These numbers reflect a reduction in staff, volunteers, and pro bono attorneys from 2017 to 2018. The number of reported staff attorneys did not increase or decrease from 2017 to 2018.
 - All LSC Providers reported that their staff provided legal services in the areas of consumer law, domestic violence, elder law, family law, health and benefits, and housing law.
- Chart 18 the breakdown of LSC Providers reporting that their staff and volunteer attorneys provide services in specific categories of law.



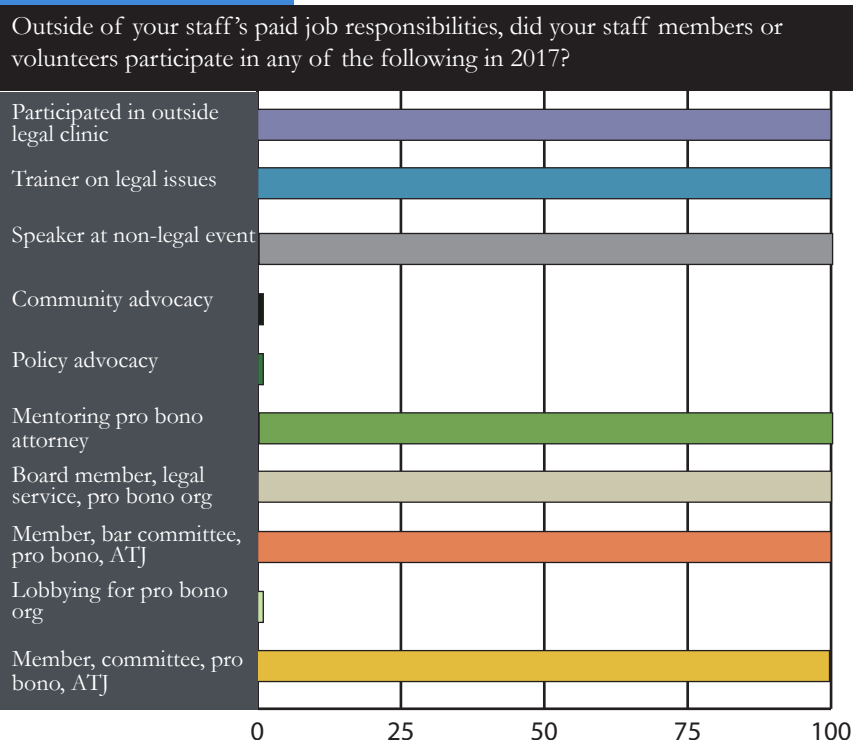
¹² There is one additional LSC-Funded Provider, Southern Migrant Legal Services, which serves Tennessee as well as other states in the Southeast region. As Southern Migrant Legal Services is specialized in its services, for the purposes of this report, Southern Migrant Legal Services has historically been considered in the “Other Legal Service Providers – Non-LSC Funded & Specialized” category of this report. Southern Migrant Legal Services did not complete the Pro Bono Report Survey for 2018.

Legal Services Corporation Funded

- Three LSC Providers reported that their pro bono programs served 1,042 clients through legal clinics in 2018, with 729 clients matched with limited scope representation, 264 clients matched with an attorney for full representation, and 82 clients served another way.

- All LSC Providers reported that their staff or volunteers participated in or supported legal clinics outside of their regular job duties. All four LSC Providers also reported that their staff or volunteers served as trainers or teachers on legal issues, as speakers at legal education events, as members of boards and bar committees, and as members committees related to pro bono or access to justice. Those providers also reported that their staff or volunteers provided supervising or mentorship to other attorneys providing pro bono representation. Chart 19 shows the breakdown of LSC Providers reporting that their membership participates in pro bono activities:

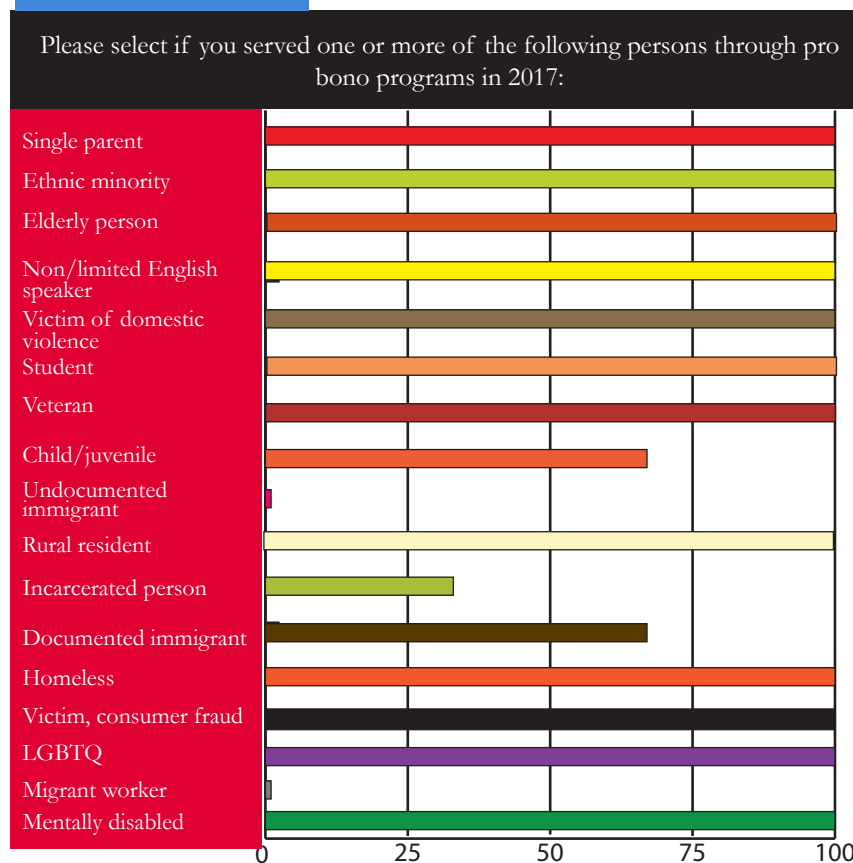
Chart 19



- When asked about total hours provided through their pro bono programs in 2018, two LSC Providers reported a total of 4,014 hours to individuals, 358 hours to organizations, 440 hours of limited scope representation, and 2,137 hours of full representation.

- Three LSC Providers identified one or more categories of disadvantaged or vulnerable Tennesseans served by their pro bono programs in 2018. All responding LSC Providers reported serving a single parent, an ethnic minority, an elderly person, a non- or limited English speaker, a victim of domestic violence, a student, a veteran, a rural resident, a homeless person, a victim of consumer fraud, and a person with a physical or mental disability. Chart 20 highlights some of the people served by

Chart 20

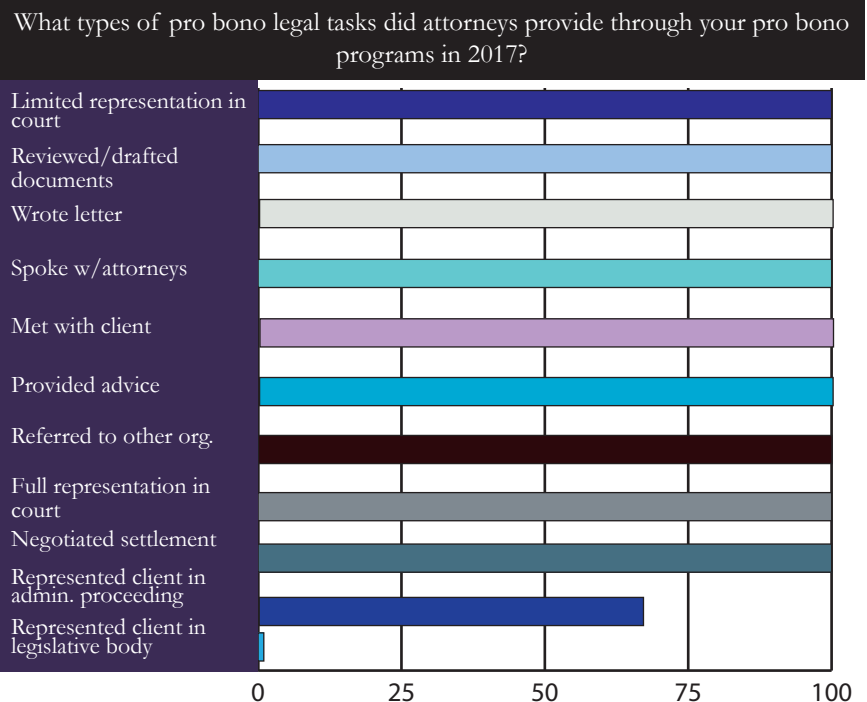


Legal Services Corporation Funded

LSC Providers through pro bono services in 2018.

- Three LSC Providers identified one or more categories of legal tasks provided through their pro bono programs in 2018. Every responding LSC Provider reported providing pro bono legal tasks in nearly every category. Chart 21 highlights some categories of pro bono reported by LSC Organizations through pro bono programs in 2018.
- When asked what other resources are needed by LSC Providers, responding organizations reported that they always need more volunteers, but also indicated several specific needs including tablets, computers, printers to utilize at clinics, and a “justice van,” fully equipped that would help build bridges from larger cities to more rural areas.

Chart 21



Several LSC Providers reported specific initiatives:

- **Legal Aid of East Tennessee (LAET)** reported 59 staff members including 25 attorneys. It reported 333 volunteers for pro bono programs, including 283 pro bono attorneys for 2018. LAET pro bono programs served 741 clients through legal clinics, 464 clients through limited scope representation, and 34 clients through full representation.
 - LAET reported that its clinics provide free legal advice to low income members of our community who might otherwise have no legal assistance. LAET’s Debt Relief Clinics provide clients with the opportunity to hear from our area’s Bankruptcy Judge and to meet one-on-one with attorneys who specialize in bankruptcy/debt law and who frequently agree to assist clients through the bankruptcy process.
 - LAET also reported that, in 2018, the organization continued and expanded its established programs. LAET held clinics in conjunction with several houses of faith throughout Knoxville, reaching more than 200 clients. In addition to developing Debt Relief Clinics, LAET maintained successful Veterans Advice Clinics and Faith and Justice clinics. At one Faith and Justice Clinic in December, LAET saw more than 100 clients.
- **Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland (LASMTC)** reported 81 staff members, including 34 attorneys. It reported 479 volunteers for pro bono programs, including 436 pro bono attorneys for 2018. LASMTC pro bono programs served 557 clients through legal clinics, 398 clients through limited scope representation, 60 clients through full representation, and 22 clients another way.
 - LASMTC reported that, in 2018, its Gallatin Clinic continued to grow in its impact to the community from 5 clinics in 2017 to 8 clinics in 2018, and included, at the request of the Clerk & Master and Circuit Court Clerk, assistance for self-represented litigants in divorce. It also reported having over 20 clinics in four counties in the more rural part of our service area. For example, LASMTC held a Legal Help Clinic in

Legal Services Corporation Funded

Columbia which included assistance for self-represented litigants in divorce. LASMTC also held a Tennessee Senior Law Alliance (TSLA) Legal Help Clinic at St. Clair Senior Center in Murfreesboro with Nashville School of Law students and alums. LASMTC's clinic in Franklin was aided by staff at the Mercy Clinic providing staff that translate since this clinic serves a high percentage of non-English speaking patrons. LASMTC also held a Faith & Justice Legal Help Clinic at Corinthian Missionary Baptist Church with students from Belmont and lawyers from Harpeth Hills Church of Christ.

- LASMTC reported new projects including (1) Working to establish regular monthly clinics in the service areas where we have offices that at the present do not have a regular clinic; (2) Establishing a monthly downtown Nashville clinic in partnership with the Nashville Library starting September 4, 2019.
- **Memphis Area Legal Services (MALS)** reported 51 staff members including 22 attorneys. It reported 332 volunteers for pro bono programs, including 332 pro bono attorneys for 2018. MALS pro bono programs served 404 clients through legal clinics, 177 clients through limited scope representation, and 47 clients through full representation in 2018.
 - MALS' pro bono legal advice clinics continued to flourish in 2018. MALS created a new medical-legal partnership with the University of Tennessee Health & Sciences Center and Rhodes to provide health and legal services. Further, we began our Restoration of Rights Project, a partnership with the University of Memphis, Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law to provide re-entry services. MALS now offers assistance with driver license reinstatement, criminal court cost waivers, expungements, and voter restoration.
 - MALS' main focus in 2019 has been building and refining the Restoration of Rights Project. The community was extremely responsive to the Project and requests for services have rapidly increased since the implementation. In 2019 we have focused on providing trainings for pro bono attorneys to increase participation and forging partnerships with other community organizations that can compliment the program's services.
- **West Tennessee Legal Services (WTLS)** reported 43 staff members including 18 attorneys. It reported 80 volunteers for pro bono programs including 47 pro bono attorneys for 2018. WTLS did not report the number of clients served in 2018.
 - WTLS reported several successes from its program in 2018, including increasing pro bono cases (accepted by pro bono attorneys) by 183% (from 68 cases in 2017 to 193 cases in 2018). We also increased the number of private attorneys accepting pro bono cases by almost 60% in 2018 and the number of private attorneys volunteering at clinics by 80%.
 - WTLS reported continuing monthly clinics at RIFA Soup Kitchen in Jackson (civil legal clinic), the Military Monday Legal Clinic at Starbucks in Jackson, and the Legal Clinic at Reelfoot Rural Ministries Thrift Store in Lake County held quarterly. In 2018, WTLS was awarded a grant by the West TN Healthcare Foundation to hold a weekly legal clinic at our local Jackson-Madison County Library. Once the grant ended, we have continued the clinic monthly at the library. WTLS also held an Expungement Clinic in Haywood County in 2018.
 - We have recently received a VOCA3 grant and have implemented the pro bono portion of that grant. We have "low"-bono pro bono attorneys who have agreed to accept an exceptionally reduced rate in order to assist our clients needing either modification of parenting plans or establishment of parenting plans in juvenile courts. These clients are either victims of domestic violence, coercive control after separation or have children in the home who have been exposed to abuse and/or illegal drug use. With the implementation of this program (VOCA3-CAP – "Contract Attorney Program"), we are able to help more victims of domestic violence through the Pro Bono Project at WTLS than we would otherwise be able to help.

Non-LSC Funded & Specialized Providers

Like LSC Providers, non-LSC funded and specialized legal service providers (“Legal Providers”) play an integral role in providing access to justice in the state, particularly by focusing on providing specialized services and advocacy that LSC Providers are unable to provide.

Starting in 2018, we added a specific question to our Pro Bono Surveying designed to collect the self-reported descriptions by Legal Providers of the important work they do in their communities. In response to this year’s survey, one Legal Provider described their primary service as “to provide civil legal services to those with limited means and those at risk, including populations not served by other legal aid agencies. We serve Shelby County residents through our civil program, elder law program, and pro se divorce clinic. Through our immigrant justice program, we serve immigrants living within the Memphis Immigration Court’s jurisdiction (Tennessee, Arkansas, and northern Mississippi).”

Other Legal Providers provided similarly specific descriptions of their work including ending “domestic and sexual violence through public policy, education and direct legal services,” “protecting and improving the laws, policies, and programs which provide dignity and opportunity, including access to health care and food,” and “strengthen[ing] the delivery of civil legal help to vulnerable Tennesseans. We do this by: Simplifying the search for civil legal help; Being a leading and unifying voice; and Establishing a center for innovation, training, and expertise.”

Legal Providers serve an especially valuable role in Tennessee Access to Justice Initiatives because they can often serve segments of the population and handle legal matters that LSC Providers cannot. Non-LSC-funded organizations do not have to follow federal income guidelines to determine if a person is eligible to receive legal services, and are not subject to the same restrictions that an LSC funded organization must observe in case selection. This allows many Legal Providers to provide enhanced access to legal care to many disadvantaged and vulnerable populations who might not otherwise get help.

Chart 22

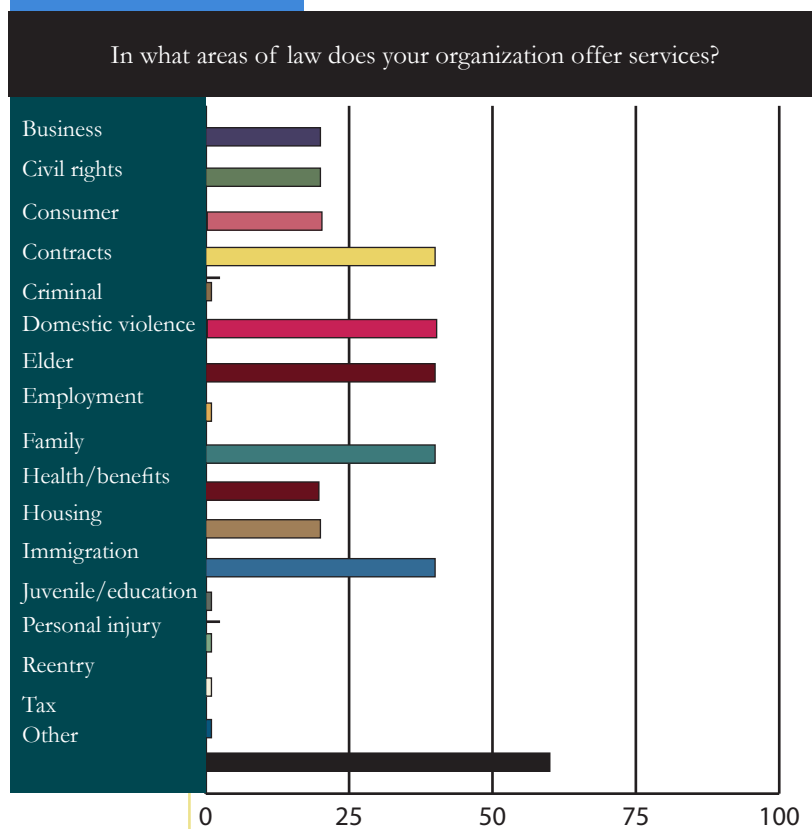
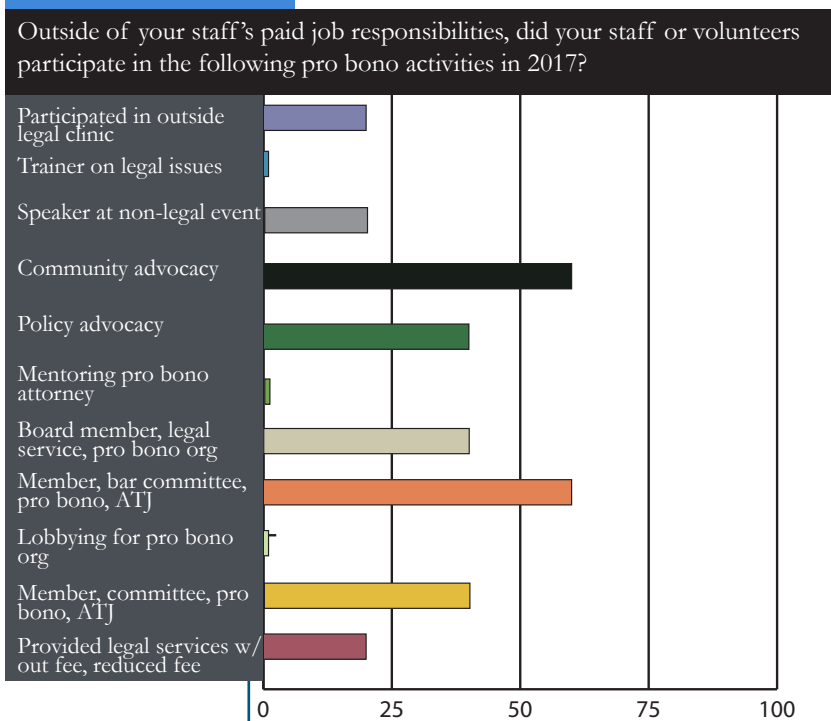


Chart 23



Non-LSC Funded & Specialized Providers

This report considers responses from five Legal Providers across Tennessee.

Highlights from Legal Providers include:

- Legal Providers reported 71 staff members including 25 attorneys. The organizations reported 1,123 volunteers for pro bono programs including 1,082 pro bono attorneys for their programs in 2018.
- Legal Providers reported that their staff provided legal services in various areas of law, most frequently including contracts, domestic violence, elder law, family, law, and immigration. Chart 23 shows the breakdown of Legal Providers reporting that their staff and volunteer attorneys provide services in specific categories of law.
- Legal Providers reported that their pro bono programs served 1,901 clients through pro bono programs in 2018, with 1,685 clients matched with limited scope representation, 173 clients matched with an attorney for full representation, 11 clients matched with an attorney for reduced-fee representation, 32 clients served through legal clinics, and 595 clients served another way.
- Four Legal Providers reported that their staff or volunteers participated in or supported pro bono activities outside of their regular job duties. The most frequent types of participation were grassroots community advocacy and serving on a committee related to pro bono or access to justice. Chart 25 shows the breakdown of Legal Providers reporting that their membership participates in pro bono activities in 11 major categories.
- When asked about the total hours provided through their pro bono programs in 2018, five Legal Providers reported a total of 1,901 hours to individuals, 99 hours to organizations, 324 hours of limited scope representation, and 1,668 hours of full representation.
- Five Legal Providers identified one or more

Chart 24

Please select if you served one or more of the following persons through pro bono programs in 2017:

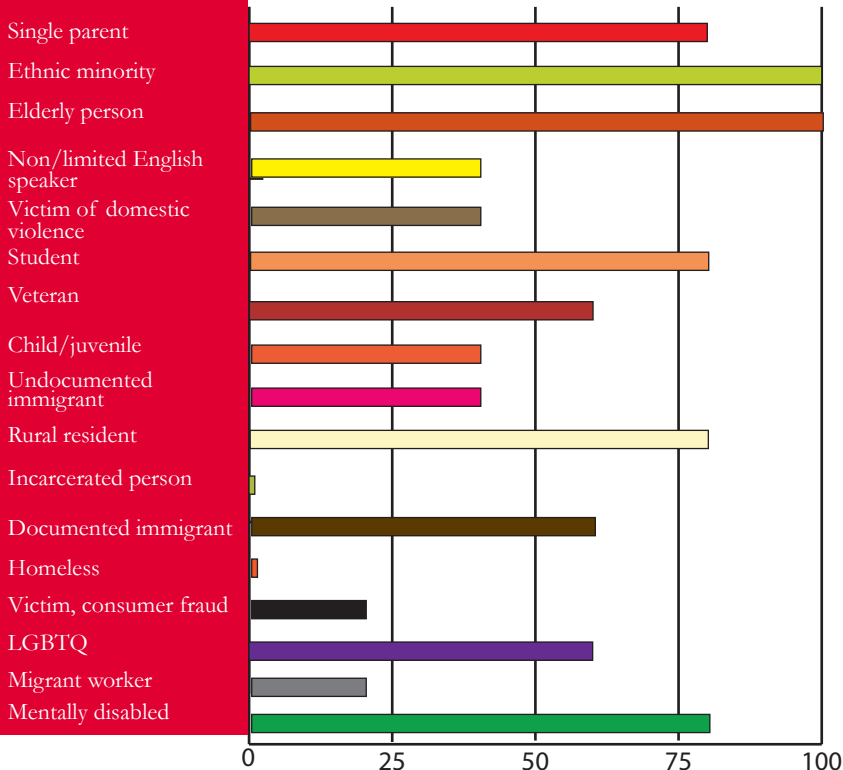
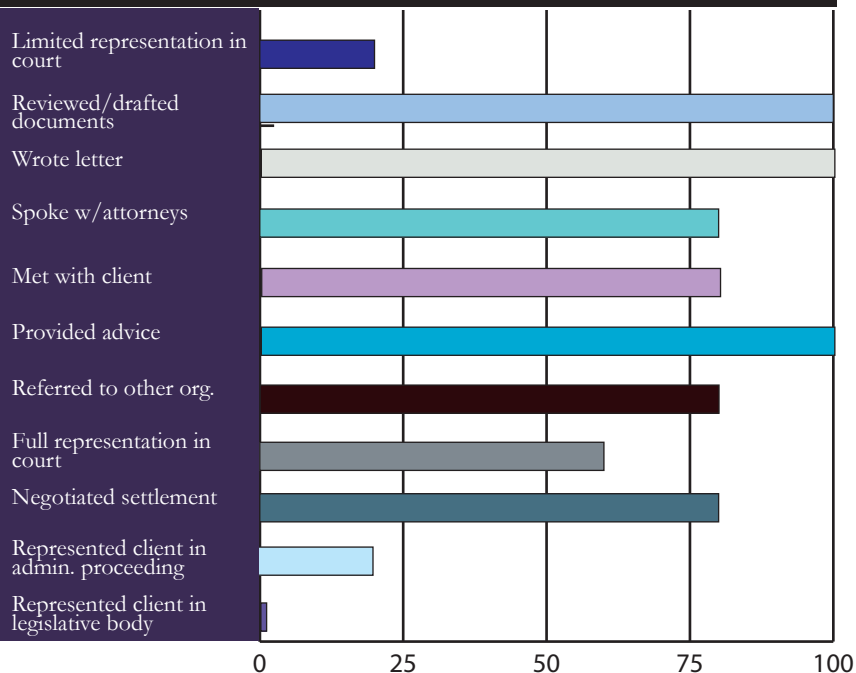


Chart 25

What types of pro bono legal tasks did attorneys through your pro bono programs provide in 2017?



Non-LSC Funded & Specialized Providers

categories of disadvantaged or vulnerable Tennesseans served by their pro bono programs in 2018. Legal Providers most frequently reported serving an ethnic minority and an elderly person. Chart 24 highlights some of the people served by Legal Providers through pro bono services in 2018.

- Five Legal Providers identified one or more categories of legal tasks provided through their pro bono programs in 2018. The most commonly occurring legal tasks reported were reviewing or drafting documents, writing letters, and providing advice. Chart 22 highlights some categories of pro bono reported by Legal Providers through pro bono programs in 2018.
- When asked what other resources are needed by Legal Providers, the most common answers are increased funding to hire more staff attorneys, paralegals and assistance, and infrastructure.

Several Legal Providers reported specific initiatives:

- **The Arts and Business Council of Greater Nashville** (Volunteer Lawyers & Professionals for the Arts) (VLPA) reported three staff members including one attorney and reported 164 volunteers for pro bono programs including 159 pro bono attorneys for 2018. VLPA pro bono programs served 32 clients through legal clinics, 32 clients through limited scope representation, 48 clients through full representation, 6 clients through reduced fee representation, and 235 clients another way in 2018.
 - VLPA reported that its 2018 program provided pro bono legal services to low-income artists of all disciplines, as well as legal and business assistance to emerging nonprofit arts organizations through the VLPA program.
 - VLPA reports that in 2018 the organization hired a dedicated staff attorney to staff our pro bono program. This is the first time VLPA has had a dedicated staff attorney. It noted that as a future and ongoing initiative, it plans to hold more legal clinics as a result of this new staffing.
- **Community Legal Center** (CLC) reported 15 staff members including seven attorneys. It reported 108 volunteers for pro bono programs including 84 pro bono attorneys for 2018. CLC pro bono programs served 92 clients through limited scope representation and 51 clients through full representation in 2018.
 - CLC reported that their Pro Bono Coordinator places civil cases in Shelby County and full or partial immigration matters across Tennessee, Arkansas, and northern Mississippi. CLC's Pro Bono Coordinator planned and implemented four CLE courses throughout 2018 and recruited a total of 40 new volunteer attorneys. Additionally, she worked to place each volunteer attorney with an experienced mentor and/or interpreter when necessary. She was able to successfully place all pro bono cases screened by CLC with a volunteer attorney where appropriate.
 - CLC reported that through a Corporate Counsel Pro Bono Initiative grant, CLC is planning on partnering with corporate legal departments to provide pro bono representation to civil clients through clinics.
- **Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services** (TALS) reported eleven staff members, including nine attorneys. It reported 815 volunteers for pro bono programs including 815 pro bono attorneys for 2018. TALS pro bono programs served 1,561 clients through limited scope representation in 2018.
 - TALS reported that its primary pro bono program in 2018 was TN Free Legal Answers. The concept of TN Free Legal Answers is a web-based pro bono clinic for low-income Tennesseans who might otherwise fall through the cracks of receiving legal assistance. Using a web-based platform, qualifying users can post questions about their civil legal needs and receive basic legal information and advice from attorneys. The website is easy-to-use and is convenient for both volunteer attorneys and low-income Tennesseans. The goal of this project is twofold: to increase access to justice for low-income Tennesseans, particularly in rural areas and to remove barriers to attorneys providing pro bono services.
 - In 2018, TALS expanded its networks and partnerships to work with law students, corporate counsel, and law firms to help disadvantaged Tennesseans get answers to their legal questions.

Non-LSC Funded & Specialized Providers

- **Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (TCDSV)** reported 22 staff members, including four attorneys. It reported six volunteers for pro bono programs and four pro bono attorneys for 2018. TCDSV pro bono programs served fifty-seven clients through full representation, five clients by reduced fee representation, and 360 clients served another way in 2018.
 - Grant funded legal staff at TCDSV provide legal services to low income victims of domestic and sexual violence at no charge per grant restrictions and approved scope of services. TCDSV staff was successful in getting information out about its Sexual Assault/DV Legal Clinic and Immigration Clinic (for victims of Domestic Violence) in order to provide legal representation to those who could not afford legal representation.
 - TCDSV will continue to assist victims of domestic violence or sexual assault who do not qualify for TCDSV grant funded services in finding services. TCDSV staff will also continue to provide free (grant funded) legal representation to victims of domestic and sexual violence and will continue partnering and collaborating with other agencies/organizations that provide services to Domestic Violence or Sexual Assault victims. Future pro bono projects include working with college campuses to provide information, resources and legal representation, as appropriate, to victims of DV or sexual assault. In addition, TCDSV will partner with other organizations to have a legal clinic housed at the organization for victims that cannot meet with an attorney during “normal working” hours.
- **Tennessee Justice Center (TJC)** reported 20 staff members including four attorneys. It reported 30 volunteers for pro bono programs, including 20 pro bono attorneys for 2018. TJC pro bono programs served 17 clients through full representation in 2018.
 - TJC reported that it has a roster of potential pro bono attorneys to represent our clients in administrative appeals, judicial review of administrative decisions in Chancery Court, and federal court.
 - TJC reported that in 2018 it successfully secured pro bono representation to all of our clients who needed it.

Pro Bono Legal Advice Clinics

A legal clinic is an excellent opportunity for attorneys with limited time or experience to provide pro bono services and to network with other attorneys. Across the state, legal clinics (“Clinic Providers”) provide limited scope legal assistance to those in need, often on a walk-in basis.

Starting in 2018, we added a specific question to our Pro Bono Surveying designed to collect the self-reported descriptions by Clinic Providers of the important work they do in their communities. In response to this year’s survey, one Clinic Provider described their primary service as to “serve low income members of our community, including victims of domestic violence, the elderly, veterans, and families through Pro Bono service..”

Other Clinic Providers provided similar descriptions of their work including “to advance, defend and enforce the legal rights of low-income and vulnerable people in order to secure for them the basic necessities of life,” “to provide access to legal assistance and services to people who cannot afford an attorney, and hopefully create solutions for those who otherwise would not have that access due to financial barriers,” and “to provide holistic, full representation to low income elderly clients.”

Clinics serve a dual triage purpose: they provide limited scope legal counsel and advice and often connect individuals with more extended legal representation. Clients who participate in a legal clinic are generally able to sit with an attorney to receive legal advice and information and discuss their needs, remedies, and next steps.

The ATJ Commission maintains a list of clinics across the state. The list is available online on the Access to Justice Website, www.justiceforalltn.com. Some of the Clinic Providers also fall into other report categories such as Bar Associations, Law Schools, and LSC-Funded Legal Service Providers.

This report considers responses from nine Clinic Providers across the state.

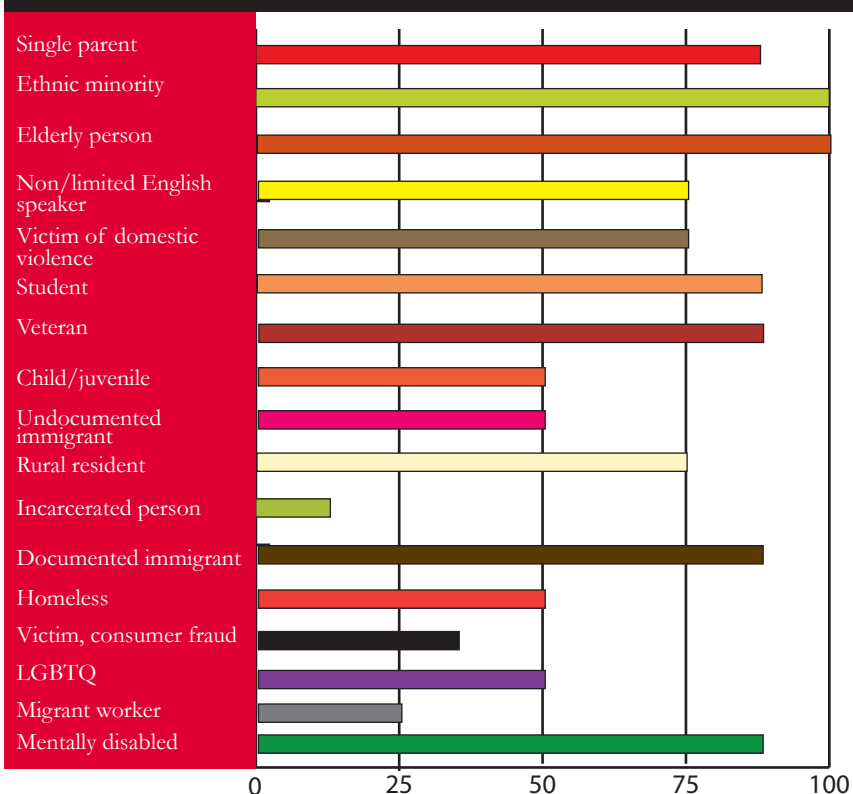
Clinic Provider responses included three general civil legal clinics, four specialized clinics, and two legal clinic programs with both general and specialized services. Of those responses, two responses were from clinics serving West Tennessee, two were from clinics serving Middle Tennessee, and five were from clinics serving East Tennessee. Three responses were clinics affiliated with a university or law school, two were clinics affiliated with a LSC Provider, two were clinics affiliated with a Bar Association, one was a clinic affiliated with a court, and one was affiliated with a non-profit not previously identified.

Highlights from Clinic Providers include:

- Seven Clinic Providers reported an average of 97 volunteers who were not licensed attorneys and 71 attorneys for pro bono programs. These seven Clinic Providers reported approximately 680 volunteers who were not attorneys but volunteered

Chart 26

Please select if you served one or more of the following persons through pro bono programs in 2017:



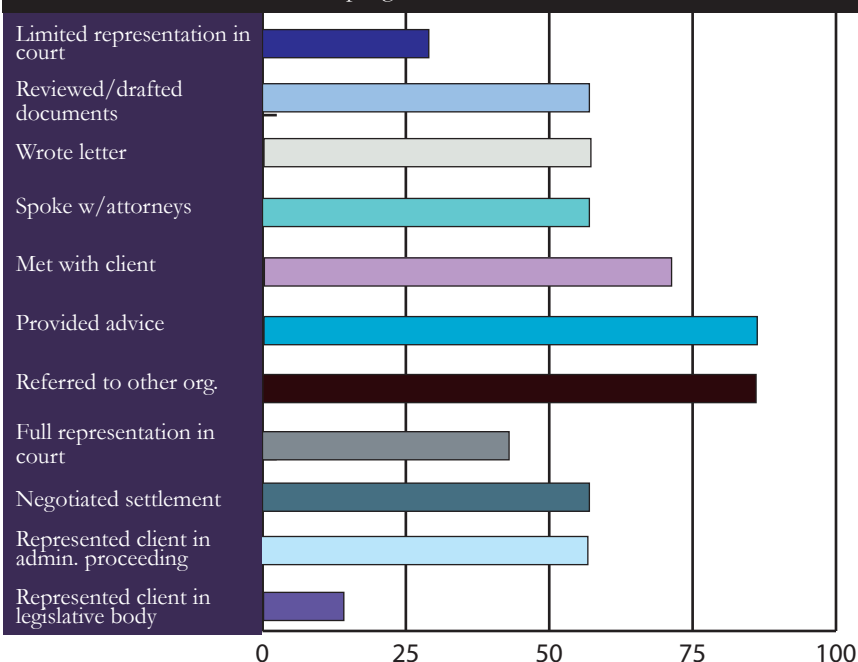
Pro Bono Legal Advice Clinics

for their clinic programs and 566 volunteer attorneys for pro bono and clinic programs.

- Eight Clinic Providers estimated serving approximately 4,469 clients through legal clinics, 50 through limited scope representation, 305 through full representation, 110 through reduced fee services, and over 145 served another way.
- When asked about the total hours provided through legal clinics in 2018, eight Clinic Providers reported that they hosted over 57 legal clinics, provided an estimated 2,689 hours of pro bono provided to individuals, 275 hours of limited scope representation, and 775 hours of full representation.
- Eight Clinic Providers identified one or more categories of disadvantaged or vulnerable Tennesseans served through their legal clinics in 2018. Clinic Providers most frequently reported serving an ethnic minority or non- or elderly person. Chart 26 highlights some of the people served by Clinic Providers through bono services in 2018.
- Seven Clinic Providers identified one or more categories of legal tasks provided through their programs in 2018. The most frequent pro bono legal tasks provided were providing counsel and advice and referrals to other organizations. Chart 27 highlights some of the categories of pro bono service reported by Clinic Providers in 2018.

Chart 27

What types of pro bono legal tasks did attorneys provide through your pro bono programs in 2017?



Pro Bono Legal Advice Clinics

Several Clinic Providers reported specific initiatives:

- **Catholic Charities of TN, Inc.** reported that their clinic programs provide an upper level of expertise on immigration matters. In 2018, through Catholic Charities clinic programs, clients were able to talk with attorney at no cost to determine if they could move forward in the immigration system.
- **The Community Economic Development Clinic of the University of Tennessee College of Law** reported that it provides free transactional legal services (i.e., not litigation) to small businesses, nonprofit organizations, entrepreneurs, and artists. Projects include business formation, contract drafting and negotiation, intellectual property protection, employment issues, and tax-exempt applications.
- **The Dial-A-Lawyer Program of the Nashville Bar Association** reported that its long-standing Dial-A-Lawyer clinic is a completely free, no-strings-attached public service that takes place on the first Tuesday of every month in Davidson County. Licensed volunteer attorneys are available to answer legal questions from members of the public.
- **The Elder Clinic of University of Memphis School of Law** reported that it provides civil legal assistance to low-income elders, offering full representation required to achieve satisfactory resolution and providing holistic representation whenever possible. The Elder Law Clinic reported that in 2018, the clinic was able to obtain conservatorship on behalf of a number of elderly parents seeking to protect adult children with disabilities and assisted numerous clients in drafting wills and Power of Attorneys. One particularly notable success included obtaining a probate court ruling on behalf of a client enabling her to obtain title to a vehicle worth \$7,000 that she had in fact paid for, but had put her brother's name on (with his permission) because he had better credit. Clinic students presented community legal education presentations on access to long term care and financial exploitation.
- **The Kingsport Bar Association, the Johnson City Office of Legal Aid of East TN ("LAET"), and the Tennessee Bar Association Young Lawyers Division of the Kingsport Bar Clinic** reported that the assistance given by volunteer attorneys at the Kingsport Bar Association Clinic primarily involve issues in the following areas: Domestic (divorce/custody), landlord/tenant/rent, consumer debt/collections problems, property disputes, wills/estate inquiries, employment problems, and workers' compensation. The clinic reported that in 2018, it assisted well over 100 people who otherwise would not have been able to afford a lawyer or who generally did not have access to legal services.
- **The Juvenile Court of Shelby County** reported that in 2018, it provided legal information to non-custodial parents with child support and or parenting time issues.
- **The University of Tennessee College of Law Family Mediation Clinic** reported that by partnering with the Knox County Community Mediation Center, clinic students co-mediate cases with experienced volunteers. These cases are filed in the Knox County General Sessions and Juvenile Courts, and they involve landlord-tenant, services, property damage, and parenting-related disputes. By providing mediation services to low-income and other legally underserved groups, the Mediation Clinic provides a valuable community service.

Law School Sponsored Pro Bono Programs

Tennessee is proud to report that for the second year in a row every law school in the state reported that Access to Justice is a top priority at their institution, and this priority continues to be evident in Tennessee law school (“Law School”) sponsored pro bono programs.

Starting in 2018, we added a specific question to our Pro Bono Surveying designed to collect the self-reported descriptions by Law Schools of the important work they do in their communities. In response to this year’s survey, one Law School described its primary service as “to educate leaders who contribute to the advancement of justice. To achieve this goal we provide students with a rigorous program of legal education, in an intellectually vibrant community of teaching and scholarly excellence that prepares them for admission to the bar and for effective, ethical, and responsible participation as members of the legal profession.”

Other Law Schools provided similar descriptions of their work including “to help students develop an awareness of their future ethical and professional responsibilities as they provide service to their community,” “to produce practice ready attorneys to work in underserved communities that are currently without an adequate number of attorneys and/or legal services,” and “to provide an affordable, intellectually rigorous, and practice-oriented legal education. As the sole law school in the heart of one of America’s great cities, we commit ourselves to community engagement and to empowering our diverse community to pursue justice as a moral virtue and a social good.”

Ever since the launch of its first Strategic Plan in 2012, the ATJ Commission has acknowledged the importance of introducing pro bono services to future attorneys while they are still in Law School. Attorneys who performed pro bono work in Law School report that it made them more likely or far more likely to participate in

Chart 28

Outside of your staff’s paid job responsibilities, did your staff or volunteers participate in the following pro bono activities in 2017?

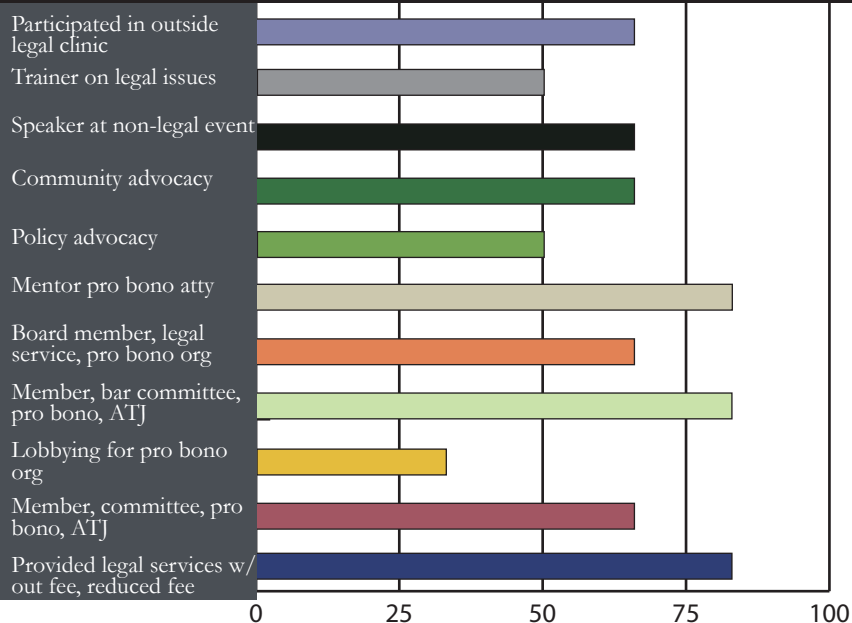
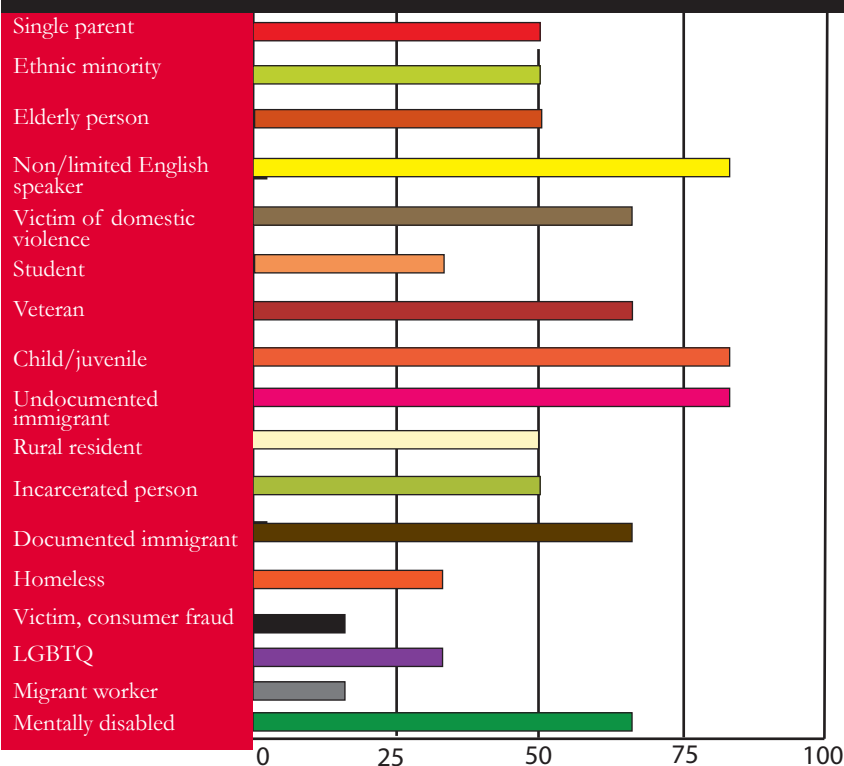


Chart 29

Please select if you served one or more of the following persons through pro bono programs in 2017:



Law School Sponsored Pro Bono Programs

pro bono once they were licensed.¹³ Further, attorneys from our clinic programs report that law student participation in their clinics brings valuable energy and enthusiasm to their programs.

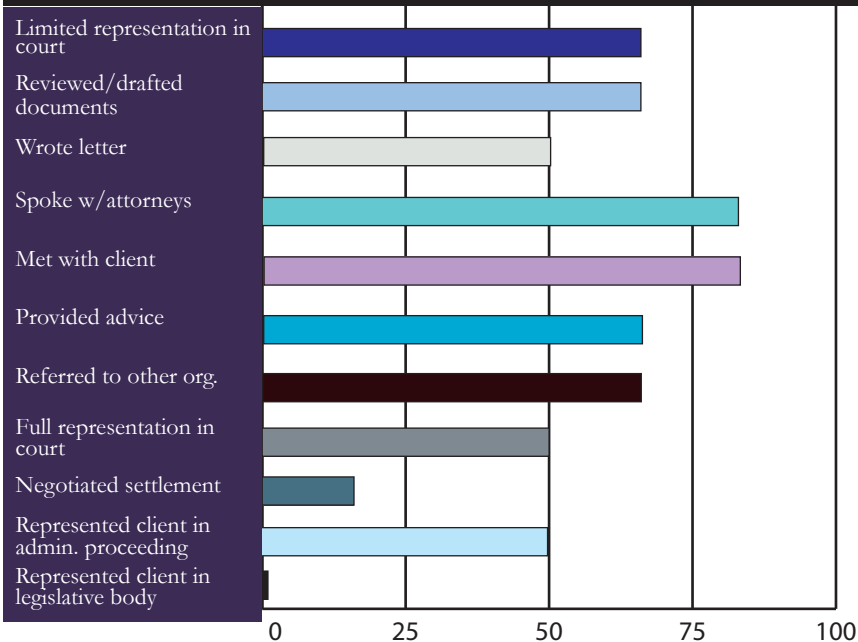
This report considers responses from all Law Schools in Tennessee.

Highlights from Law Schools include:

- Law Schools reported 2,181 law students enrolled in their institutions in 2018, and a total of 1,181 law students involved with pro bono in 2018. This means that law schools report that over half (54.18%) of their law students participate in pro bono and reflects a slight increase from the statewide Tennessee Attorney and All Attorney numbers reported by the BPR. Law Schools in Tennessee reported 360 faculty members, and 105 faculty members involved with pro bono.
- All Law Schools reported that their faculty and staff participated in pro bono activities in 2018 outside their regular job duties. The most frequent type of faculty and staff participation included participating in legal clinics, speaking at legal education events for non-lawyers, policy advocacy, supervising or mentoring another attorney providing pro bono service, serving as a member of a bar committee or committee related to pro bono or access to justice. Chart 30 shows the breakdown of Law Schools reporting that their membership participates in pro bono activities in 14 major categories.
- Again in 2018, Law Schools reported that they did not consistently track how many clients were served through pro bono programs at their institutions; however, more Law Schools reported estimated numbers of clients served than the prior year. Of the Law Schools who provided estimates, Law Schools estimated more than 550 clients served through clinic programs and approximately 100 clients matched with an attorney for limited scope representation. One law school reported serving 5-10 additional clients through clinics and externships which provide full representation.
- Two Law Schools reported a total of 9,558 hours of pro bono provided to individuals, with one law school reporting over 9,000 of those hours, and another Law School reported providing 5,809 hours of limited scope pro bono to organizations.
- All Law Schools reported that at least 25% of their students participated in pro bono programs. Four Law Schools reported that at least 25-49% of their students participate in pro bono programs, one law school reported that 75-98% of their students participated in pro bono programs, and one Law School reported that 99-100% of their students participate in pro bono programs.

Chart 30

What types of pro bono legal tasks did attorneys provide through your pro bono programs in 2017?



¹³ "Supporting Justice: A Report on the Work of America's Lawyers", ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono & Public Service, Copyright 2018 American Bar Association. Reprinted by permission.

Law School Sponsored Pro Bono Programs

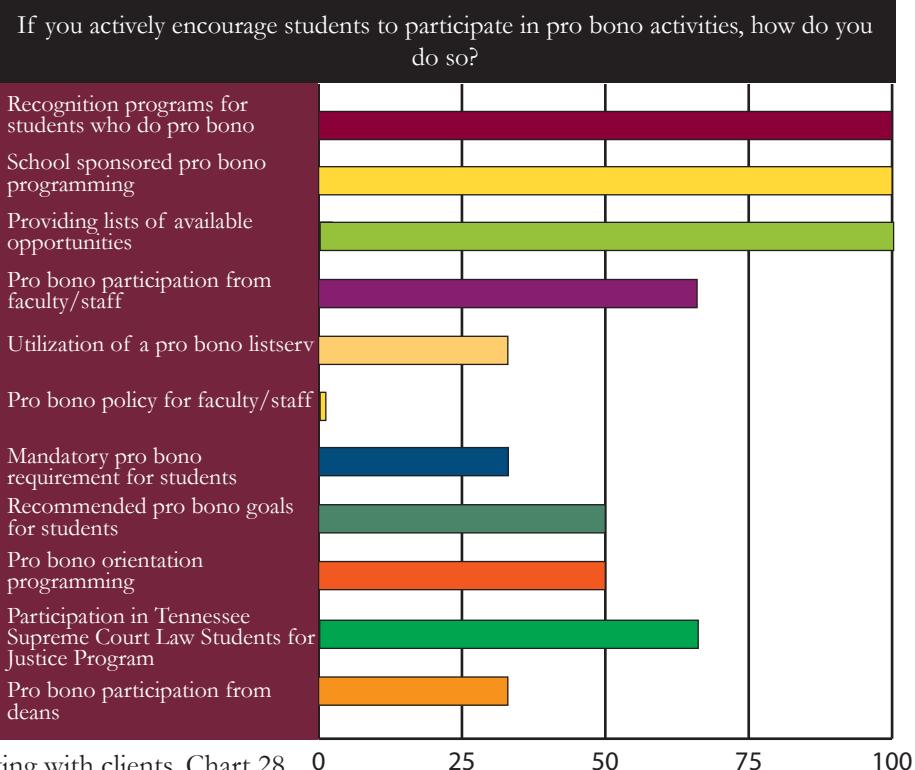
- Half of Law Schools reported that at least 50% of their faculty participate in pro bono programs, with one Law School reporting that 99-100% of their faculty participate in pro bono programs.

- Five Law Schools identified one or more categories of disadvantaged or vulnerable Tennesseans served by their membership in 2018. Law Schools most frequently reported serving a single parent, an ethnic minority, non- or limited English Speakers, veterans, children or juveniles, and undocumented immigrants through their pro bono programs. Chart 29 highlights some of the people served by Law Schools through pro bono services in 2018.

- All Law Schools identified one or more categories of legal tasks provided by their faculty and students in 2018. The most frequent types of pro bono legal tasks provided were interviewing and meeting with clients. Chart 28 highlights some of the categories of pro bono service reported by Law Schools through pro bono services in 2018.

- 100% of Law Schools reported that they actively encourage students to participate in pro bono activities through recognition programs for pro bono participation and school sponsored pro bono programs. Chart 31 highlights some of the ways that Law Schools encourage students to participate in pro bono programs.

Chart 31



Several Law Schools reported specific initiatives:

- Belmont University College of Law (BCL)** reported 25-49% of students and 75-98% of faculty participated in pro bono in 2018. BCL reported that it encourages students to participate in pro bono activities through recognition programs, school sponsored pro bono programming, lists of opportunities, pro bono participation from faculty and staff including law school deans, recommended pro bono goals for all students, and participation in the Law Students for Justice Program.
- In 2018, BCL programs partnered with numerous outside organizations including the Tennessee Immigrant & Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRCC), Compassionate Counsel, Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services (TALS), and Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland. Highlights included the launch of a successful program with community partners including Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland to provide assistance to indigent women in need of restraining orders in domestic violence related matters. BCL pro bono programs also saw an increased level of student involvement among upper-level law students.
- Future pro bono projects include the launch of a course that will involve a new medical-legal partnership

Law School Sponsored Pro Bono Programs

program providing legal services to clients screened and referred by medical professionals for legal needs.. One of the medical clinics for this partnership program will be the Vanderbilt Geriatric Outpatient Center. Students working at this location will be providing advice regarding preparation of durable powers of attorney for health care and for finances and may also involve preparation of advance care directives and other wills and estate matters. The second clinic will be the free clinic at Mercury Courts in north Nashville that will provide services to individuals, many of whom are homeless or formerly homeless, who have been identified as having health harming legal needs.

- **Lincoln Memorial University Duncan School of Law (LMU)** reported 99-100% of students and 99-100% of faculty participated in pro bono in 2018. LMU reported that it requires students complete at least thirty hours of pro bono work prior to graduation, and that it encourages students to participate in pro bono activities through recognition programs, school sponsored pro bono programming, lists of opportunities, pro bono participation from faculty and staff including law school deans, a pro bono policy for faculty and staff, and a mandatory pro bono requirement for students.
 - LMU reported that its primary means of providing Pro Bono in 2018 was through legal clinics. Specifically, LMU reported participating in clinics involving veterans and immigrant issues.
 - LMU's partnership with Legal Aid of East Tennessee and the Knoxville Bar Association in hosting monthly Veterans Advice Clinics assisted local veterans. LMU also coordinated with chapter attorneys to present a Continuing Legal Education seminar at LMU in Knoxville covering children's asylum and Special Immigrant Juvenile Status (SIJS) cases, with an eye toward recruiting more volunteer attorneys in those areas. LMU partnered for legal clinics that assisted immigrant families with obtaining Powers of Attorney paperwork and other important documents. LMU Professor William Gill was named the 2018 Pro Bono Champion Award Recipient for the Midsouth Chapter of the American Immigration Lawyer's Association (AILA).
- **Nashville School of Law (NSL)**: reported 25-49% of students and 50-74% of faculty participated in pro bono in 2018. NSL reported that it encourages students to participate in pro bono activities through recognition programs, school sponsored pro bono programming, lists of opportunities, pro bono participation from faculty and staff including law school deans, recommended pro bono goals for all students, and participation in the Law Students for Justice Program.
 - During 2018, NSL reports that its pro bono projects primarily consisted of partnering with organizations to provide support for clinics. NSL students participated in expungement clinics, general immigration (partnering with Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) and Justice for our Neighbors (JFON)), civil, and elder law clinics. NSL students established deeper relationships with partner organizations, and one of the organizations has asked one of our clinic coordinators to take a more active role in organizing their clinics.
 - NSL reports that future projects include working to implement a Street Law program and working with Thistle Farms on their expungement efforts.
- **The University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law (UML)**: reported 75-98% of students and 0-9% of faculty participated in pro bono in 2018. UML reported that it requires students complete at least forty hours of pro bono work prior to graduation with a reporting deadline of one month before graduation. UML reported that it encourages students to participate in pro bono activities through recognition programs, school sponsored pro bono programming, lists of opportunities, pro bono participation from faculty and staff, pro bono orientation programming, mandatory pro bono requirements for all students, recommended pro bono goals for all students, and participation in the Law Students for Justice Program.

- UML reported that students participated in Memphis Area Legal Services Second Saturday Clinics, Thursday Clinics, and Veteran Clinics. UML student also participated in events hosted by the Community Legal Center, including visits to the Tallahatchie Detention Center to provide information and legal services, power of attorney clinics, and know-your-rights clinics, Orange Mound Senior Center Power of Attorney Clinic (sponsored by Autozone and Bass, Berry, and Sims), Alternative Spring Break, and VITA Tax Clinic. We also have students who participate in mentoring programs including Shelby County Youth Court, ORCS Mock Trial (judging), and Street Law (partnership with local high schools to provide an introduction to the study of law and encourage application to law schools).
- UML also reported that its pro bono program provided experiential learning opportunities for students, and through our wide range of programming, UML was able to provide a pro bono experience for nearly every student. This year during Alternative Spring Break, UML worked with domestic violence organizations to provide information to women who are victims of domestic violence. UML is also in the process of implementing an externship with MALS that focuses on veteran's services and an externship with the Tennessee Innocence Project.
- **University of Tennessee College of Law (UT)** reported 25-49% of students and 0-9% of faculty participated in pro bono during 2018. UT reported that it encourages students to participate in pro bono activities through recognition programs, school sponsored pro bono programming, pro bono orientation programming, recommended pro bono goals for all students, and participation in the Law Students for Justice Program.
 - In 2018, UT Pro Bono operated 12 clinics: Homeless Project, Knox Saturday Bar, Blount Saturday Bar, Oak Ridge LAAC, VITA, Virtual Legal Advice Clinic, Veterans Clinic, Expungement Clinic, Faith and Justice Project, Alternative Spring Break, Street Law, and LAET/Children's Hospital Partnership. UT Pro Bono was also involved in emergency relief for those affected by the Morristown immigration raids which it reported was one of the main accomplishments of its program in 2018.
 - One new project that UT Pro Bono was involved with in 2018 was a partnership with the Legal Aid Society of East TN and the Knoxville Children's Hospital. UT is in the process of implementing a Victims of Human Trafficking Project as a new project in 2019.
- **Vanderbilt Law School (VLS):** reported 25-49% of students participated in pro bono in 2018 and reported that VLS does not track the percentage of faculty who participate in pro bono. VLS reported that it encourages students to participate in pro bono activities through recognition programs, school sponsored pro bono programming, lists of opportunities, utilization of a pro bono listserv, pro bono orientation programming, recommended pro bono goals for all students, and participation in the Law Students for Justice Program.
 - VLS reported that, in 2018, many students participated in community sponsored pro bono clinics throughout the Nashville area, which are distributed to students using our pro bono listserv. Students also participated in law school sponsored pro bono programs including our Pro Bono Spring Breaks program which sent 13 students to Lumpkin, Georgia and Johnson City, TN for their spring break to help organizations with their pro bono activities. VLS organized a pro bono opportunity with a Kentucky lawyer to assist his many clients that were facing removal of their disability benefits.
 - In addition, VLS partnered with the Southern Poverty Law Center's Southeast Immigrant Freedom Initiative and the Appalachian Community Federal Credit Union to provide students with Pro Bono Spring Break experiences. VLS has several new pro bono projects in the works for 2019 including an immigration clinic with JFON, a voting restoration project with the Campaign Legal Center, a transactional lawyering project with The Working World, the TN Video Clinic Project, a court watching project with Every Town for Gun Safety, and policy research for the Justice Collaborative. In addition to these projected projects for the 2019-2020 school year, we also partnered with the Atlanta Legal Aid Society for this year's Pro Bono Spring Break.

Law Offices with Pro Bono Policies, Pillar Law Firms, Attorney for Justice Law Offices

Tennessee law firms (“Law Firms”) play a special role in supporting pro bono programs in Tennessee. From the smallest to largest, Law Firms across the state serve their communities and facilitate the pro bono work of their attorneys.

Starting in 2018, we added a specific question to our Pro Bono Surveying designed to collect the self-reported descriptions by Law Firms of the important work they do in their communities. In response to this year’s Survey, one Law Firm explained that that their firm “provides legal services to groups and individuals whose resources are limited. [E]fforts include work on a wide range of matters, such as advocating for the homeless and organizations that serve the homeless, providing corporate legal services to non-profit organizations, collaborating with our clients to address particular community needs, and much more.”

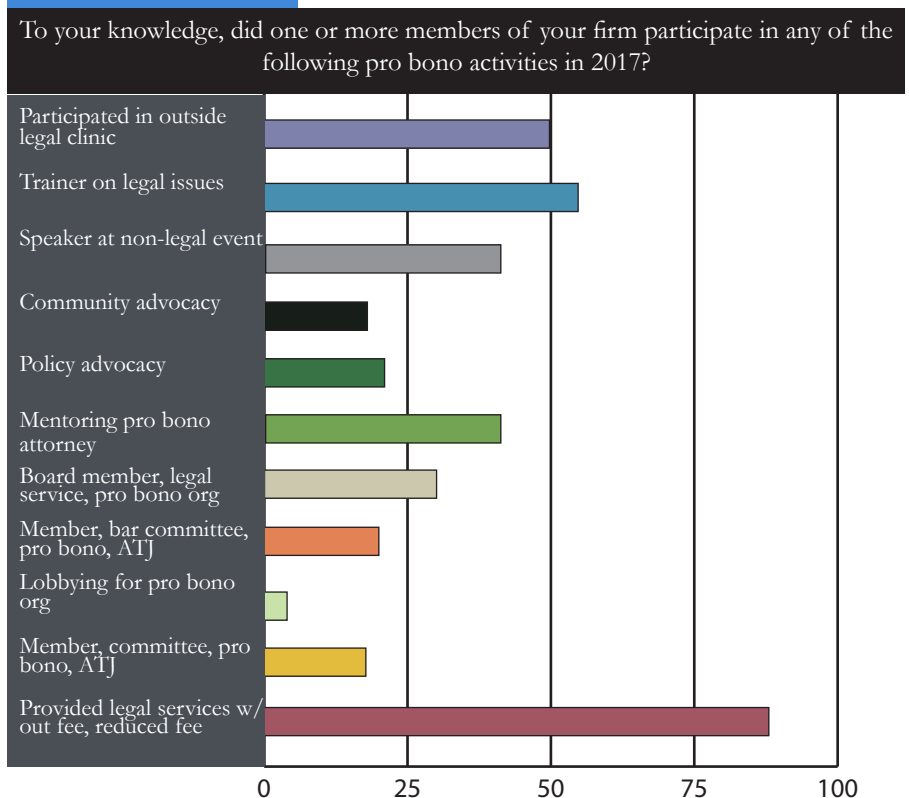
Other Law Firms provided similar descriptions of their work including “engaging in as much pro bono work as possible, [for example], volunteer[ing] for several not-for-profits and participate in local and state bar committees,” “support[ing] people and groups in need of legal representation [including] death penalty cases, adoptions, evictions, human rights, privacy rights, prisoner rights, services for people in recovery from addiction, representation of start-up charitable nonprofits, and intellectual property work for low-income inventors, artists and entertainers,” and “helping meet the critical needs of individuals, nonprofits and organizations. Our pro bono work spans multiple areas, including children’s initiatives, community development, civil rights, supporting not for profits, and working with victims of human trafficking and anti-trafficking organizations.”

Among many other ways to encourage pro bono, Tennessee’s Pillar Law Firm model formalizes a more efficient way for Law Firms to accept referrals for pro bono services by training specific Law Firms to accept pro bono assignments within particular high-demand areas of law. The ATJ Commission is interested in understanding the particular needs and resources of Law Firms in order to continue to maximize the impact that

Chart 32



Chart 33



Law Offices with Pro Bono Policies, Pillar Law Firms, and Attorney for Justice Law Offices

firms provide in equal access to justice efforts in the state.

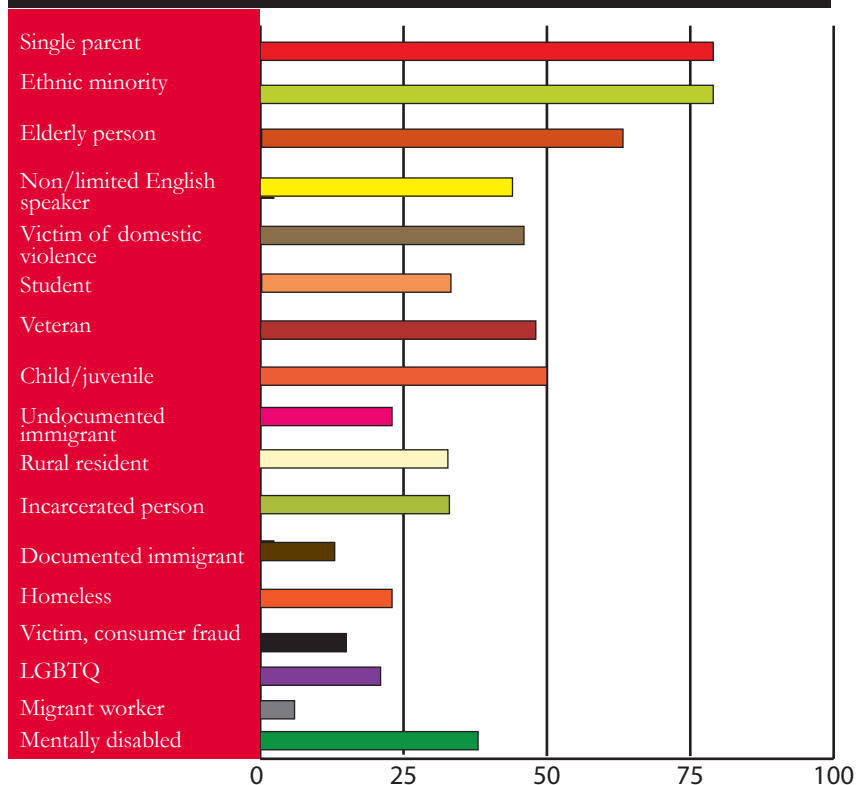
The Pro Bono Coordinator surveyed law offices including those with pro bono policies, Pillar Law Firms, and offices who employ at least one attorney recognized as an 2018 Attorneys for Justice. This report considers responses from seventy-five Law Firms in Tennessee.

Highlights from Law Firms include:

- Seventy-five Law Firms responded to the survey, with 9 Law Firms reporting primary services in West TN, 31 Law Firms reporting primary services in Middle TN, 22 Law Firms reporting primary services in East TN, and 10 Law Firms reporting services across the entire state.
- Of the Law Firms who responded to the 2018 survey, firms indicated practice specializations in all surveyed categories of law except for reentry services. Chart 32 shows the breakdown of Law Firms reporting that their attorneys provide services in specific areas of law.
- The responding Law Firms reported employing 826 attorneys in the state, and reported that 452 of their attorneys participated in pro bono activities, with 98 attorneys recognized as Tennessee Supreme Court Attorneys for Justice. In addition, Law Firms reported 97 staff who are not attorneys but also participated in pro bono programs.
- Five Law Firms reported that their firm was a Pillar Law Firm, 15 Law Firms reported that their firm has a formal pro bono policy in place, 8 Law Firms reported that their firm had been recognized for its pro bono work by the Tennessee Supreme Court, and 43 firms reported that one or more attorneys at their firm were recognized as an Attorney for Justice.
- Fifty-six Law Firms reported that their attorneys participated in one or more specific pro bono activities in 2018. 87.5% of those respondents reported providing legal services without a fee or at a substantially reduced fee to persons of limited means. Chart 33 shows the breakdown of Law Firms reporting that their attorneys participate in pro bono activities in fourteen major categories.
- Forty-eight Law Firms reported serving more than 800 clients through legal clinics, 194 clients through limited scope representation, 325 clients through full scope representation, 1,353 clients through reduced fee services, and more than 600 clients another way. Further, fifty-one Law Firms reported providing a total of 29,247 hours of pro bono to individuals, 13,775 hours to organizations, 795 hours of limited scope representation, and 26,372 hours of full representation.

Chart 34

Please select if you served one or more of the following persons through pro bono programs in 2017:



Law Offices with Pro Bono Policies, Pillar Law Firms, and Attorney for Justice Law Offices

- Forty-five Law Firms reported that more than half of their attorneys provided pro bono services, and 71.43% of respondents reported that 99%-100% of their attorneys provide pro bono services. Law Firms report similar numbers of partners in the firm who do pro bono, which could be a result of a large number of small firms reporting 100% pro bono participation.
- Fifty-two Law Firms identified one or more categories of disadvantaged or vulnerable Tennesseans served by their firms in 2018. Law Firms most frequently reported serving a single parent or an ethnic minority. chart 34 highlights some of the people served by Law Firms through pro bono services in 2018.
- Fifty-five Law Firms identified one or more categories of legal tasks provided by their attorneys in 2018. The most frequent type of pro bono legal tasks provided were providing advice, which was reported by 90.91% of responding Law Firms, and interviewing or meeting with a client. Chart 35 highlights some categories of pro bono service reported by Law Firms in 2018.

Chart 35

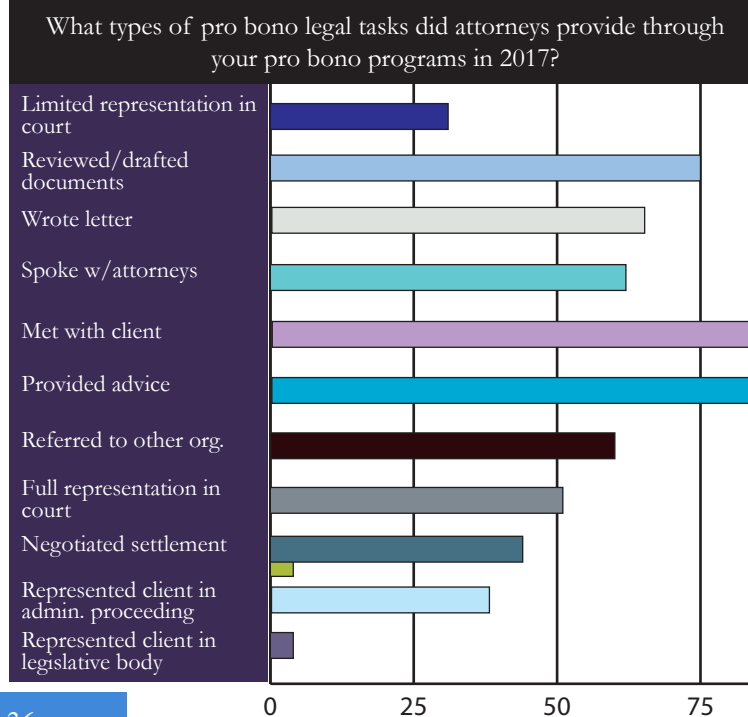
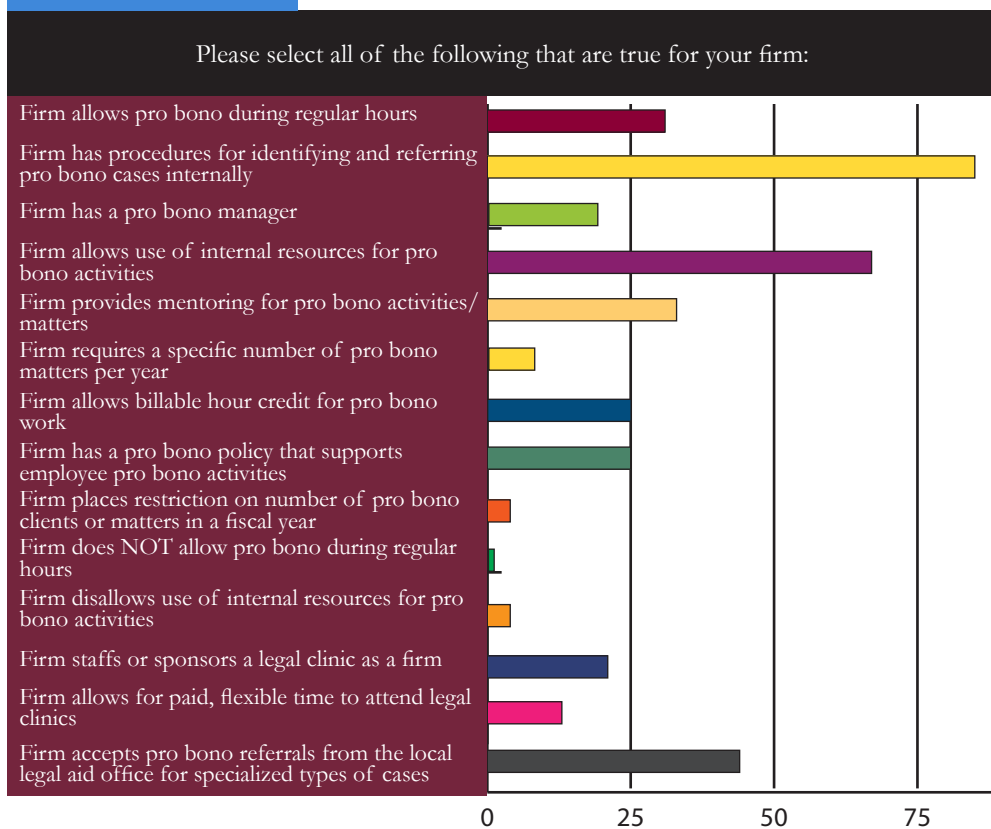


Chart 36



- Fifty-two firms answered questions about whether their firm had formalized or informal pro bono policies. 84.62% of firms responding noted that their firm allows pro bono during regular business hours and 67.31% reported that their firm allows use of internal resources for pro bono activities. Chart 36 highlights some of the ways that employers encourage pro bono activities in 2018.
- More than half of the responding Law Firms reported that Access to Justice was a top priority to their firm, and more than 20% rated Access to Justice the most important priority to their firm. Further, 97.82% of responding firms reported that Access to Justice was a priority to their firm, which was a dramatic increase from the prior year.

Law Offices with Pro Bono Policies, Pillar Law Firms, and Attorney for Justice Law Offices

Several Law Firms reported specific initiatives and examples of their pro bono work in 2018:

- **Baker Donelson Bearman Caldwell & Berkowitz** reported obtaining successful judgments in drivers license reinstatement cases, successful administrative appeals for rural healthcare clinic for low income persons and successful immigration cases under Convention Against Torture. Baker reports looking at new ways to expand impact in the future, specifically, expanding partnerships with corporate clients to leverage increased representation. Baker reports also working to develop stronger relationships with local Legal Aid associations.
- **David R. Yoder** reported helping individuals and not-for-profit organizations including volunteering for several not-for-profits and participate in local and state bar committees.
- **Global Intellectual Property Asset Management, PLLC** reported providing representation to those who could not afford representation, and noted that their legal outcome was vastly improved. Global specifically described negotiating licenses and royalties for a pro bono client so she would be appropriately accredited and compensated for her intellectual property. The firm plans to maintain providing pro bono services as opportunity and time allows.
- **Bradley Arant Boult Cummings LLP** reported that the Nashville office's pro bono work was successful in 2018 because Bradley ramped up contributions to several local nonprofit legal organizations, including the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland, Volunteer Lawyers & Professionals for the Arts (VLPA), Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors and the Tennessee Justice Center. Attorneys accepted new wills and estates cases from the Legal Aid Society and continued working on similar matters from 2017. Attorneys also staffed the Operation Stand Down Tennessee Legal Advice Help Desk in November and December 2018. Bradley attorneys also attended a CLE and training event hosted by Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors wherein they learned how to handle asylum and other immigration matters. Finally, Bradley accepted contract, entertainment and intellectual property law matters from VLPA. In all, Bradley Nashville attorneys completed 2,743 hours of pro bono in 2018.
- **The Williams Law Firm PLLC.** reported providing mediation services to General Sessions Court.
- **Law Offices of Ben G. Sissman** reported participating in the Memphis Courthouse Thursday clinic most weeks in 2018 and also participating in all of the 2nd Saturday clinics at the Memphis Public Library.
- **Patterson Intellectual Property Law** reported obtaining a total disability rating for a veteran who was previously only granted partial disability. Patterson also obtained a disability rating for a veteran who was repeatedly denied a disability rating. Further, Patterson conducted over 24 hours of CLE hours on Intellectual Property Law for over 250 attorneys and non-attorneys in 2018. Patterson became more involved in veterans causes and continued its Intellectual Property Law CLE program across state.
- **The Law Office of James A. Rose, P.C.** reported serving a charity foundation for Cheatham County Central High School theater/drama program, speaking at the Cheatham Middle School Career Day, and volunteering with the Davidson County Youth Court program.
- **Michelle Caggiano** reported assisting with family reunification and securing assistance for clients with alcohol and drug addiction issues and mental health issues, and creating resource packets to centralize the services in the area. The Law Firm noted that many clients have limited telephone contact with service providers which delays progress on the case.

Law Offices with Pro Bono Policies, Pillar Law Firms, and Attorney for Justice Law Offices

- **Carrie Searcy, Attorney at Law** reported representing an incarcerated client who was facing 10 to 15 years in prison in a jury trial where the client was released as a result of the Law Firm's representation.
- **Douglass & Runger** reported serving on the board of Community Legal Center in 2018, success in several pro bono immigration matters, and in one probate matter. The firm also served as a GAL in multiple guardianship cases for pro bono organizations.
- **Colleen MacLean, Attorney** reported completing the transfer of a conservatorship where conservator could no longer serve.
- **Mason Law Office** reported providing guidance and advice relative to specific legal issues predominantly in the areas of labor and employment law.
- **Ufford Law & Mediation Offices** reported obtaining resolutions for clients and accomplishment of their objectives.
- **Middlebrooks & Gray, P.A.** reported successful representation in divorce matters for clients who could not afford representation.
- **Law Office of Bryan Hathorn** reported preventing an eviction of a client, assisting a client with California probate, and assisting a client enforce a judgment in California.
- **Katja Hedding Attorney at Law** reported advising the immigrant community of their rights, achieving Special Immigrant Juvenile Status approvals for undocumented children, and terminating immigration proceedings for one undocumented child. The Law Firm assisted in Know Your Rights Seminars held at different locations in Middle TN. The Law Firm also mentored two attorneys defending an immigrant in removal proceedings and advised local school outreach coordinator to help an immigrant mother contact the ICE office and requested a reasonable fear interview.
- **Elmore, Stone & Caffey, PLLC** reported that the firm personally served and brought Diversity Leadership Institute participants to serve in March Expungement Clinic in Nashville. After reaching out to MALS, MALS held a previously unplanned Wills clinic with the Diversity Leadership Institute participants assisting the clients. The firm also worked out a settlement on a consumer debt and resolved a boundary dispute. The firm also participated in an Expungement clinic and a Wills clinic. Other pro bono participation included neighborhood drainage issues, creating a charitable non-profit entity, additional files from Legal Aid of East Tennessee, and a matter before the U.S. 6th Circuit Criminal Justice Act panel.
- **Law offices of Erin Coleman** reported that the firm serves as the attorney for a few non-profits, participates in legislative lobbying for a domestic violence non-profit, and pro bono order of protection representation.
- **Bailiff Law** reported the Law Firm was able to reach a great many people and restore faith in the justice system to each and every one. The firm reported working with the first transgendered youth who was involved in a full guardianship case who was undergoing a change due to gender dysphoria in the history of Tennessee. The Law Firm also provided clothing to children coming in to state's custody and started a non-profit to aid people in the community affected by tragic crime or in the juvenile system. The Law Firm expanded its pro bono work to effect individuals in their particular circumstance. The firm not only provides legal representation, but also attempts to aid in the necessities pro bono clients cannot provide themselves. The firm is incorporating a non-profit, Faith Without Fear, and has already held our first benefit to benefit a family in Tennessee affected by a mass murder in Westmoreland, Tennessee.
- **James B. Hawkins, Attorney at Law** reported that the firm assisted with low income survivors of domestic violence and

Law Offices with Pro Bono Policies, Pillar Law Firms, and Attorney for Justice Law Offices

assisted with administrative appeals of unemployment benefits denials.

- **Husch Blackwell** reported that the firm had a variety of pro bono work in 2018 including some adoption cases and a Hague Convention case. The firm's Hague case was successful and the client had his daughter returned to him. The firm continues to encourage and support pro bono involvement in its Chattanooga office.
- **Alan D Hall Attorney at Law PLC** reported doing pro bono because we need to help people and right injustice. In 2018, the firm successfully coordinated a legal clinic with legal aid, gained successful placement of a minor with Foster Parents, staffed legal clinics in addition to participation, and assisted with juvenile custody issues.
- **Saev Hernandez Immigration Practice, PLLC** reported that the firm supervises the Citizenship Clinic of the Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition, which holds quarterly clinics for permanent residents seeking citizenship. In 2018, the firm implemented a new clinic model of doing Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests for applicants.
- **Rebecca L. Lashbrook** reported that the firm worked towards the best interest of a child, reunification of family, advocacy for non-profit agency assisting with protection/advocacy of children, and pro bono assistance to the Domestic Violence Program of Rutherford County and CASA of Rutherford County
- **Kevin Batts** reported that the Law Firm is active in helping recovering addicts navigate the maze of treatment and the judicial process in rebuilding their lives. This holistic approach includes a variety of services, such as regaining driving privileges, obtaining affordable housing, developing parenting skills with an eye toward visitation and custody, developing payment plans to the court and others, and adhering to strict programs of probation and community correction. In 2018, the firm assisted addicts in their recovery, including criminal and civil representation. Helped Drug Court participants regain custody/visitation with their children, regain Drivers Licenses, debt reduction, treatment, employment.
- **Moore & Associates, PC** reported that the Law Firm continues to serve on various non-profit boards. The firm reviews applications for waiver of fees for children sports activities fees and grant or deny these applications. The firm also continues to take selected appointed criminal cases from Criminal Court and continually provide representation well over the cap amounts pursuant to Rule 13.
- **Thrive IP** reported that the firm prepares and files trademark applications for non-profit organizations.
- **Miller & Martin PLLC** reported that the firm assists organizations (civic, environmental, and religious) that allow clients of limited means access to our attorneys' knowledge and expertise. Several veterans were helped with wills and estate planning work. The firm's attorneys were involved in research and assistance to human trafficking victims through the Chattanooga Women's Fund, and attorneys continue to devote time and energy to the Chattanooga Women's Leadership Institute and the Access to Justice Commission. All this in addition to taking on individual cases for clients of limited means or who otherwise qualify for pro bono legal services. Assisting with the Chattanooga Bar Association's Wills for Veterans event in November 2018. The firm also works with human trafficking victims. Our attorneys continue to participate in legal clinics where they meet with and gain clients.
- **McCroskey Law** reported that the firm received a favorable result for a pro bono client.
- **Amy Ruther Callis, Attorney** reported that people were helped to resolve a situation or get advice that they may otherwise not have been able to afford.

Law Offices with Pro Bono Policies, Pillar Law Firms, and Attorney for Justice Law Offices

- **Rogers, Kamm, & Shea** reported the firm often sees a need when there is no ability to pay and fill that need. The firm enjoys supporting a local monthly legal clinic since there are always family law cases. This helps our younger attorneys learn the interview skills needed and the clinic is a frequent source of more pro bono work. The firm has for 30 years represented a religious organization at a reduced pro bono rate.
- **Held Law Firm** reported that, in 2018, the firm hired a part-time consultant to redesign our existing pro bono program, to integrate our individual pro bono representation with a new program where we design and advocate for the implementation of systems to address the needs for the targeted population as a whole. The firm began requiring all staff, even law clerks, to contribute 10% of their time to pro bono initiatives. The firm began the Literacy Project, ongoing in 2019, to provide books to children housed in Knox County's Juvenile Detention Facility. The firm also continued requiring all attorneys to maintain at least two pro bono cases at all times - one individual and one organization. The firm began representing the Elysium Organization which teaches self defense to children in low income neighborhoods, and HomeSource, which builds affordable housing. The firm will expand our work with Elysium's programs. The firm is also exploring a new initiative for rehabilitation to home ownership for HomeSource and is are designing a name-change clinic for trans-gender youth.
- **Law Office of Robert Dietrick** reported that the firm represented indigent criminal defendants on direct appeal.
- **John A. Bell** reported successful representation in multiple litigation cases. The firm also reported representation of companion animal rescue groups and local humane societies. The representation includes litigation, administrative regulatory issues, and service as a member of the Boards of Directors. The litigation is focused in "impact litigation," chiefly in "shelter reform" cases.
- **Kinnard, Clayton & Beveridge** reported that the firm is committed to serving and supporting our community. We see it as our duty to ensure that the judicial system is available to all. We strive to accomplish our mission by providing pro bono litigation services to injury victims in need who might not have had access to representation.
- **The Law firm of Joseph Pehanick** reported that the firm devotes professional time and resources and uses civic influence to ensure equal opportunity and fairness within our justice system for those who, because of social or economic barriers, cannot afford adequate legal assistance.
- **Tarpy, Cox, Fleishman, & Leveille, PLLC** reported that "lawyers serve. Serving manifests itself in many ways and in many forms. To paraphrase a much higher authority, we have been given much as lawyers and are therefore demanded to give more. Pro bono legal service for those with less helps answer that demand."
- **Mullins, Thomas, & Whitfield PLLC** reported that it is a responsibility and an honor to help people access justice through pro bono service.
- **The Law Firm of Steven Moore** reported serving on several non-profit Boards and devoting time when they are in need of legal advice. The firms also takes court-appointed cases when called upon by the Courts, and represents and gives legal advice in criminal matters pro bono to many people throughout each year.
- **Murfree & Goodman, PLLC** provides pro bono legal services to a variety of organizations and select private individuals. For organizations, we provide advice concerning corporate issues, employment issues, reporting requirements, and other day-to-day matters about which non-profits require legal advice. Providing these services pro bono allows those organizations to maximize the resources they devote to achieve their missions.

Faith-Based Providers – Tennessee Faith and Justice Alliance

The Tennessee Faith and Justice Alliance (“TFJA”) is an alliance of faith-based groups (“Faith-Based Providers”) in Tennessee who commit to providing legal resources to their congregations and communities.

The ATJ Commission created the TFJA on the premise that many individuals with legal issues will first seek assistance at their local houses of worship. The TFJA connects religious communities with legal communities in various forms across the state on a case by case basis; developing and planting clinic projects, assisting with pro bono referral projects, connecting resources, conducting trainings for pastoral leadership and CLE opportunities, conducting interpreter and mediator trainings, and more. The TFJA not only expands and complements the existing network of pro bono services provided in the state, in some cases, the TFJA can be effective in providing pro bono resources to communities in new ways that might not be effective otherwise.

Starting in 2018, we added a specific question to our Pro Bono Surveying designed to collect the self-reported descriptions by Faith-Based Providers of the important work they do in their communities. In response to this year’s survey, one Faith-Based Provider described their primary service as to “empower, educate and motivate men and women to overcome low self-esteem, unemployment, and hopelessness through various conferences and clinics designed to restore fullness of life.”

Other Faith-Based Providers provided similar descriptions of their work including “bringing together diverse immigrant communities throughout the state to examine root causes, find common interests, and organize for better conditions,” “building a strong, welcoming, and inclusive Tennessee,” “providing advice clinic services,” and “lifting up the voices of directly affected people... to ensure our theory of change is

Chart 37

Did your organization, or a representative, participate in any of the following programs through the Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance in 2017?

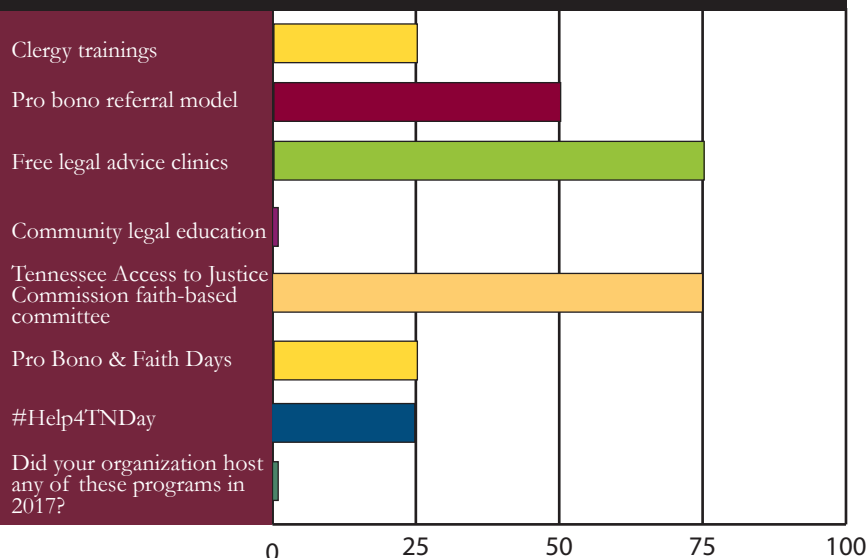
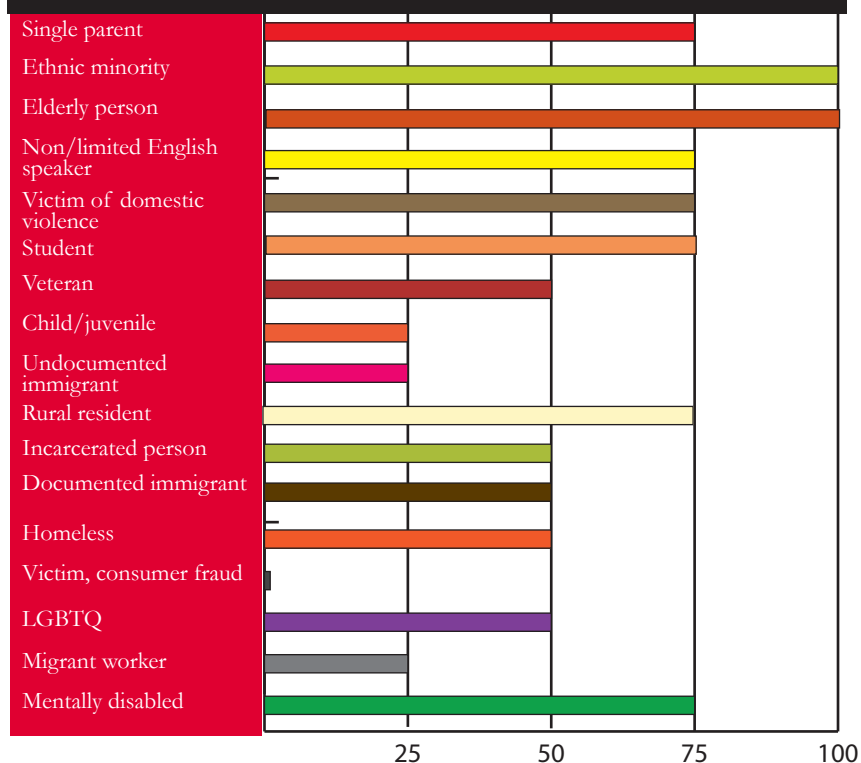


Chart 38

Please select if you served one or more of the following persons through pro bono programs in 2017:



Faith-Based Providers – Tennessee Faith and Justice Alliance

reflected in the way we make decisions, in the work we undertake today, and in the course we set for the future.”

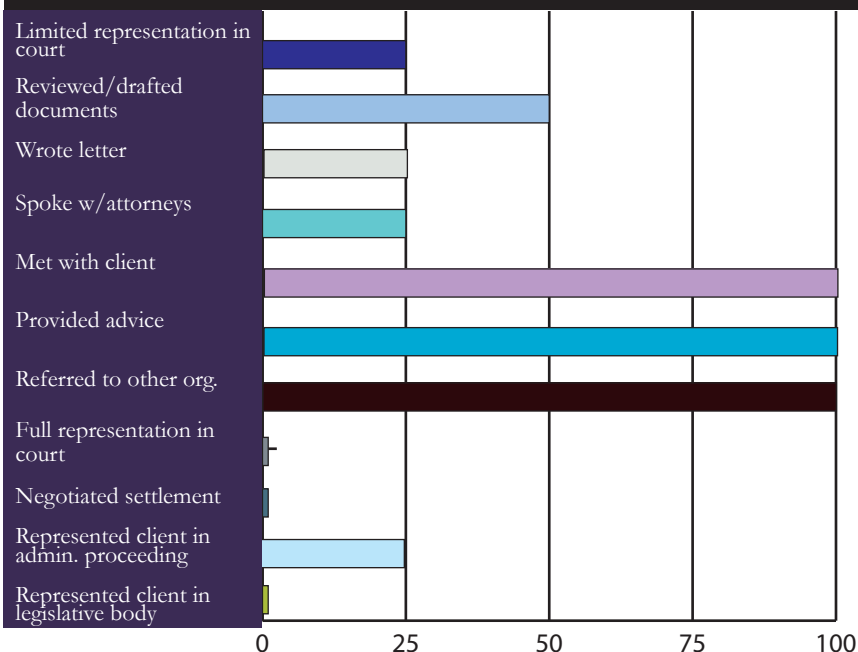
This report considers responses from five Faith-Based Providers in Tennessee.

Highlights from Faith-Based Providers include:

- Faith-Based Providers reported serving 5210 clients through pro bono programs in 2018. Faith-Based Providers reported serving approximately 3,799 clients through clinic programs, 38 clients through limited scope representation, 120 clients through full representation, and 1,253 clients another way.
- Responding Faith-Based Providers estimated providing over 6,700 hours of pro bono, including 6,551 hours to individuals, 16 hours to organizations, 31 hours of limited scope representation, and 166 hours of full scope representation.
- Some Faith-Based Providers reported participating in TFJA free legal advice clinics and the Tennessee Access to Justice Commission’s Faith-Based Committee in 2018. Chart 37 shows the breakdown of Faith-Based Providers reporting that they participated in TFJA programs in 2018.
- Several Faith-Based Providers identified one or more categories of disadvantaged or vulnerable Tennesseans served by their programs in 2018. Faith-Based Providers most frequently identified serving an ethnic minority or elderly person through their programs. Chart 38 highlights some of the people served by Faith-Based Providers in 2018.
- Some Faith-Based Providers identified one or more categories of legal tasks provided by their pro bono programs in 2018. The most frequent type of pro bono legal tasks provided were providing advice and interviewing, meeting with the client, or referring to other organizations. Chart 39 highlights some categories of pro bono service reported by Faith-Based Providers in 2018.

Chart 39

What type of legal tasks did volunteer attorneys through your pro bono programs perform in 2017?



Faith-Based Providers – Tennessee Faith and Justice Alliance

Several Faith-Based Providers reported specific initiatives:

- **The Tennessee Video Clinic Project** reported that it is a project of the ATJC that is strategically designed to allow people who may not be able to make it into a standing legal clinic to get legal help virtually. The TN Video Clinic Project was under development in 2018 and began accepting cases in March 2019.
- **W.O.M.B. Ministries** is a 501(C)3 non-profit organization dedicated to ministering to the needs of hurting and broken women, men and their families. W.O.M.B.'s purpose is to minister life, hope and the healing love of God to those who are dying mentally, emotionally and spiritually; due to unresolved past hurts, wounds, dependencies, and addictive behavior. We address these needs by providing: Spiritual Counseling Job Readiness Training Financial Management Empowerment Retreats & Conferences . W.O.M.B. reported that its main accomplishments in 2018 were two Expungement Clinics held in Montgomery County which were very successful to restoring many lives by restoring individuals rights to vote, their dignity and possible housing and many other life needs.
- **Lipscomb's Institute of Law and Society** program provides legal advice clinics at St. James Missionary Baptist Church and Schrader Lane Church of Christ. Lipscomb has held these partnerships for several years, and the numbers of clients have continued to grow at Schrader Lane. Lipscomb reports that it hopes to host more free legal clinics in the future.
- **The Music City Community Court** reported a great number of participants and volunteers in 2018. The work of the Music City Community Court allows individuals the opportunity to proceed with record Expungement; driver's license reinstatement, restoration of voters rights, access to housing, food and jobs. In 2018, the Music City Community Court received the 2018 Community Court Grant to receive technical assistance from the United States Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance with the Center for Court Innovation in partnership with the ATJC to implement a New Diversionary Court named C.A.R.E. (Creating Avenues for Restoration & Empowerment) for Ages 18-30.
- **The Music City Community Court** is currently the process of creating the Bordeaux North Community Justice Center which will be the designated space for the General Sessions Music City Community Court, Division VIII (8). The Court will have civil, traffic and C.A.R.E. court cases handled in this space as well as our Saturday Court Dockets for our Expungement/ Legal Clinics, Indigency, Community Service Work Dockets and Resource Fairs.
- **Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC)** reports that through an empowerment model TIRRC assists individuals and families to overcome obstacles, access opportunities, and become powerful leaders in their communities. Through TIRRC's resource referral program, TIRRC provides information and answers questions in multiple languages via phone, hotline, text message, email and social media, offering referrals on a variety of topics from legal assistance and crisis response to education and housing. In TIRRC's legal services program, TIRRC supports immigrants and refugees through referrals to trusted legal service providers and private attorneys, and hosts frequent application assistance workshops to pair attorneys with families in need of low-cost, high-quality assistance in applying for types of legal status.
- **Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC)** also reported that in 2018, TIRRC made 5,000 resource referrals to immigrants needing assistance, many of them in search of legal support. TIRRC conducted intakes after immigration enforcement interactions for over 100 families, then made referrals to partner attorneys (not including the raid support below). This team also implemented group processing workshops to assist immigrant families complete more than 900 powers of attorney. A focus of TIRRC's work in 2018 was the April raid in Bean Station, Tennessee. Our community education, legal services, and community partnerships were all activated in service of this rural immigrant community. For the first two weeks, TIRRC hosted legal clinics every day for families, where TIRRC provided immigration screenings, assisted in locating relatives, created powers of attorney for their minors, and identified other legal issues such as custody and previous criminal charges.

Mediation Providers – Community Mediation Centers & Rule 31

Mediation can serve as an appealing way to resolve legal disputes particularly for those who may be unable to afford representation or for whom litigation is likely to be lengthy. Tennessee has many providers who offer free or reduced cost mediations that mediations serve as an important pro bono resource in Tennessee.

In Tennessee, there are two major types of pro bono mediation opportunities: (1) Non-profit community mediation centers that provide pro bono mediation services to residents across the state (“Mediation Providers”), and (2) Rule 31 Mediators, where individuals provide pro bono mediation services pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 31 (“Rule 31 Mediators”).

Mediation Providers often partner with local courts to provide a range of free or low-cost (sliding scale) mediations to those who are most vulnerable in the court system. The Administrative Office of the Courts supports these centers through limited grant funding designed to increase low-income Tennesseans’ access to mediation services.¹⁴

Starting in 2018, we added a specific question to our Pro Bono Surveying designed to collect the self-reported descriptions by Mediation Providers of the important work they do in their communities. In response to this year’s survey, one Mediation Provider described its primary service as to “provide free access to justice through mediation.”

Other Mediation Providers provided similar descriptions of their work including providing “mediation in adult and juvenile courts in the counties served as well as conflict resolution education,” to “provide assistance to the judicial system when they adjudicate high-conflict cases,” and to “break multi-generational cycles of child abuse, neglect, and trauma.”

This report considers responses from seven Mediation Providers across Tennessee.

Highlights from Mediation Providers include:

- Ten Mediation Providers consisting of approximately 171 paid staff members, 8 paid staff mediators, 42 total volunteers for pro bono programs, and 62 volunteer mediators for pro bono programs, were able to serve over 658 clients with free mediations, 9 clients with reduced fee mediation, and 3,010 clients another way in 2018.
- Mediation Providers reported providing 4,945 hours of pro bono to individuals in 2018.
- Mediation Providers reported that their organization

¹⁴ Specifically, the AOC administers three state-funded grants related to mediation. The first is the Victim Offender Mediation Program (VORP). The Tennessee General Assembly established VORP in 1993 to provide funding support for the state’s earliest non-profit mediation centers. The second is the Parent Education and Mediation Fund (PEMF) established pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 38 and T.C.A.

§6-6-413. The third is the Access & Visitation Grant which is available for the development or continuation of initiatives that will address the needs of never-married, self-represented litigants and focus on services to help them resolve any or all issues concerning parenting and visitation in child support cases or cases involving child support issues. The AOC distributes these funds to grantees to provide education and mediation for indigent parents involved in absolute divorce, legal separation, annulment, or separate maintenance proceedings, and any other custody matters.

Chart 40



Mediation Providers – Community Mediation Centers & Rule 31

offered service in many areas of civil law. The most common area of law that Mediation Providers offered service was family law. Chart 40 highlights some areas of law reported by Faith-Based Providers in 2018.

- More than half of Mediation Providers reported that their staff or volunteers participated in pro bono activities outside of their regular job duties. The most commonly occurring activity was providing legal or mediation services without a fee or at a substantially reduced fee to persons of limited means. Chart 41 shows the breakdown of Mediation Providers reporting that their membership participates in pro bono activities.
- Seven Mediation Providers identified one or more categories of disadvantaged or vulnerable Tennesseans served by their membership in 2018. Mediation Providers most frequently reported serving a single parent or an ethnic minority. Chart 42 highlights some of the people served by Mediation Providers through pro bono services in 2018.

Chart 41

Outside of your staff's paid job responsibilities, did your staff or volunteers participate in the following pro bono activities in 2017?

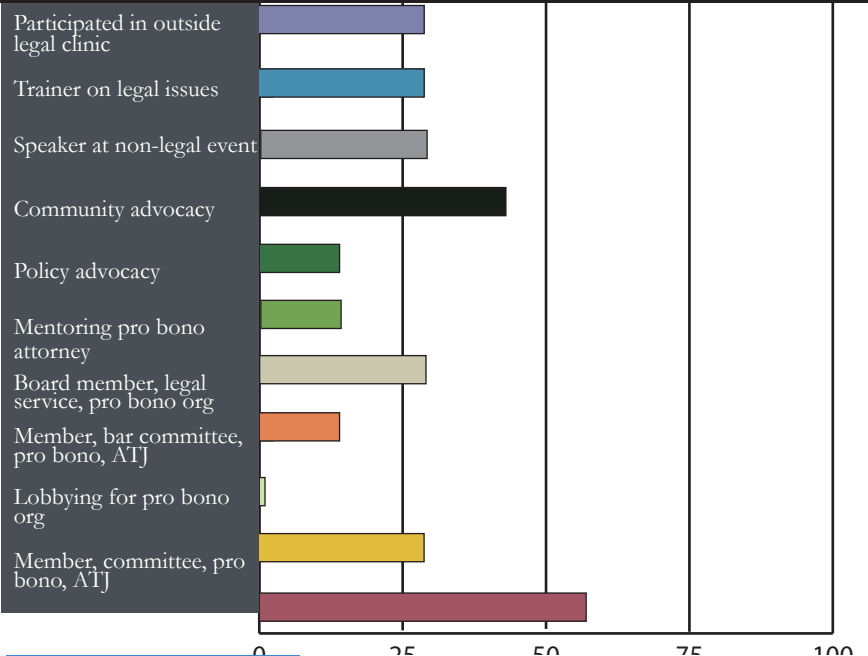


Chart 42

Please select if you served one or more of the following persons through pro bono programs in 2017:



Mediation Providers – Community Mediation Centers & Rule 31

Several Mediation Providers reported specific initiatives:

- **Mid South Mediation Services** reported participating in adult and juvenile victim offender mediations and some civil mediation in court. Mid-South Mediation noted that nearly all of their cases have positive comments of satisfaction on the mediation feedbacks.
- **First Judicial District Court Clinic** (“Court Clinic”) reported that the court mediation partnership program refers litigants for either mediation or supervised visitation. The program has been successful in reuniting fathers/mothers with their children via parenting plans and our supervised visitation program.
- **Mid-South Community Justice & Mediation Center, Inc** reported offering free mediations each Thursday in Shelby County General Sessions Court as well as free and reduced-cost, income-based mediations by appointment only. The program also reported a free restorative practice reentry program and low-cost restorative practice circle training offered to schools located in Shelby County. In 2018, the provider obtained 501(c)(3) recognition from the IRS and expanded our services to provide free and reduced cost mediations to the public. In September 2018, the program became a recognized United Way of Greater Memphis’ Driving the Dream (DTD) referral network and began offering free mediation services to persons with income at or below the poverty level.
- **Kindred Place** reported that the program is primarily referred mediations for custody and visitation from Juvenile Court. Kindred Place offers a sliding fee scale for these services with the lowest fee being \$25 per party. Th provider reported that its greatest success is helping families find visitation plans that allowed both parents to have a relationship with the children.
- **VORP/Community Mediation Center** reported providing free mediation in General Sessions, Civil and Juvenile court as well as community referrals. The program serves rural areas and low income Tennesseans. Our service is tremendous to those in need, and allows court resources to focus on more severe cases. If the program cannot help them we try and refer to other resources. Notably, in 2018, the program grew by adding juvenile cases in Overton County.

Pro Bono Recognition

In an effort to increase the number of attorneys and law offices providing pro bono services to those who cannot afford legal costs, the Tennessee Supreme Court has an extensive recognition program. The Court honors all attorneys providing at least 50 hours of service annually, with a goal of increasing statewide pro bono work to 50 percent participation. In the program, attorneys meeting the Court's minimum goal of 50 pro bono hours annually are named "Attorneys for Justice" by the Tennessee Supreme Court. The program is entirely voluntary and based on self-reporting. The Court also recognizes Law Students for Justice.



In 2018, the Supreme Court recognized 717 attorneys as Attorneys for Justice, up from 522 in 2017.

- In 2018, the Supreme Court recognized 717 attorneys as Attorneys for Justice. Each attorney provided 50 or more hours of pro bono service in the 2017 calendar year. This number increased from 522 Attorneys for Justice recognized in 2017, an increase of nearly half of the 2017 figure.
- The attorneys who were recognized reported a total of 104,645 hours of pro bono service.
- Sixty-seven attorneys each reported providing 300 hours or more hours of pro bono service in the prior year.
- One law firm, Dodson, Parker, Behm, & Capparella, PC submitted an application for recognition directly to the AOC and was recognized as a Law Firm for Justice for pro bono work done by their attorneys. This office provided an average of 50 or more hours per attorney during the 2018 calendar year.
- In 2018, 158 Law Students for Justice were recognized for performing 50 or more hours of pro bono legal work over the course of their law school careers.

Conclusion

The Tennessee Supreme Court ATJ Commission is proud to highlight the extensive pro bono efforts of organizations, attorneys, and law students in this annual report. Thanks to the generosity of so many, Access to Justice has become a reality for many disadvantaged Tennesseans and ATJC thanks its partners across their state for their participation in this annual survey and report.

In conclusion, this report reveals that, in 2018, more Tennessee attorneys participated in Pro Bono than ever before, with more than 52% of Tennessee Attorneys and more than 51% of All Attorneys reporting pro bono participation. The impact of that work is reflected each day through every county in Tennessee, and examples of the ways that different partners across the state, from Law Firms to Legal Providers to Bar Associations and more, provide that Pro Bono is illustrated through both data and narrative throughout this report.

The ATJ Commission urges attorneys to continue to track and report the many activities in which they have provided pro bono representation or services per Supreme Court Rule 8, Section 6.1.