

How to Get Involved with the Access to Justice Initiative And Other Resources



The concept of OnlineTNJustice.org 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 email 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 client/users. 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.



1-888-aLEGALz was created by a coalition of Tennessee legal groups and Memphis-based International Paper. Together, they have joined forces to fund and operate toll-free phone line offering legal information and referrals to low-income Tennesseans, aLEGALz will assist Tennesseans in finding resources to deal with civil legal issues. Those who cannot afford a lawyer may call the line at 1-888-253-4259 and leave a message any time. Calls will be returned by a licensed Tennessee lawyer.



The TJFA is a project of the Access to Justice Commission. It is an alliance of faith-based groups in Tennessee who commit to providing legal resources to their congregations and communities. TJFA was created to align needs seen at the local house of worship level with possible legal resources that are nearby, perhaps

even within the same congregation. The notion is to connect with people in need in a place they already go to seek help with a problem. That place is quite often their place of worship.



There are resources for attorneys who wish to volunteer with existing pro bono programs such as Legal Aid of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands and for those that wish to create

new pro bono opportunities. The Supreme Court created a website devoted to access to justice, www.justiceforalltn.com. You can find a list of clinics across the state and the contact information for the clinic coordinator. You can find information on how to start a clinic. You can find information on mediation centers where you can volunteer. You can find information on faith-based projects that fall under the TJFA.

You can also get involved with the Supreme Court's ATJ Initiative by serving on one of the ATJ Commission's Advisory Committees. Currently there are six Advisory Committees: Education, Faith-Based Initiatives, Mediation, Pro Bono, Public Awareness, and Self-Represented Litigants. Please contact the ATJ Coordinator for more information on becoming involved with the ATJ Initiative.