

June 30, 2026

The Honorable James Hivner, Clerk
Tennessee Supreme Court
Supreme Court Building
401 Seventh Avenue North, Suite 321
Nashville, TN 37219-1407

Via email: appellatecourtclerk@tncourts.gov

Re: **Proposed Amendments to Rule 50A**
Rules of the Tennessee Supreme Court
No. ADM2026-00434
Comment of Tennessee Bar Association

Dear Mr. Hivner:

The Tennessee Bar Association ("TBA" or "Association") is grateful for the opportunity to comment on proposed changes to the Supreme Court Rules, and respectfully submits this comment on the changes to Rule 50A (which governs the Pro Bono Emeritus Attorney Program) proposed in the petition filed by the Tennessee Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission ("ATJC") on March 24, 2026 and published for such comment by the Court's Order of May 1, 2026. This comment by the Association incorporates a recommendation of the Association's Access to Justice Committee. The TBA now submits the following comments for the Tennessee Supreme Court's consideration.

The Tennessee Bar Association supports the proposed amendments. The revisions provide needed clarity regarding eligibility requirements, the application process, and the obligations of both emeritus attorneys and sponsoring organizations. Clearer guidance will make the program easier to understand and navigate for attorneys interested in providing pro bono service after retirement.

The TBA particularly supports amendments that align Rule 50A with other Tennessee Supreme Court rules governing attorney status and continuing legal education requirements. Consistency among the Court's rules will reduce confusion and simplify participation in the program.



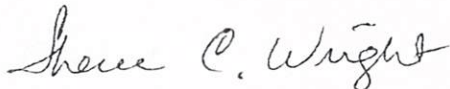
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The TBA also supports the proposed changes that remove unnecessary barriers to participation while maintaining appropriate safeguards through supervision and certification by approved legal assistance organizations. These changes recognize the valuable experience retired attorneys can bring to pro bono representation and will help legal service providers recruit and retain qualified volunteers.

The Pro Bono Emeritus Attorney Program is an important tool for expanding access to justice for Tennesseans with unmet civil legal needs. The TBA believes the proposed amendments will strengthen the program, encourage greater participation by retired attorneys, and increase the availability of pro bono legal services throughout the state.

For these reasons, the Tennessee Bar Association respectfully supports adoption of the proposed amendments to Rule 50A. We wish to thank the Court for the opportunity to comment on the proposed amendments and considering our comments. If any additional information is needed, we are happy to provide any additional materials.

Respectfully submitted,



Sheree C. Wright
Executive Director

cc: TBA Executive Committee



MaryBeth Lindsey

From: Sheree Wright <swright@tnbar.org>
Sent: Tuesday, June 30, 2026 4:04 PM
To: appellatecourtclerk
Subject: No. ADM2026-00434: Comment of the Tennessee Bar Association on Proposed Amendments to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 50A
Attachments: Signed TBA Comment Rule 50A .pdf

Warning: Unusual sender <swright@tnbar.org>

You don't usually receive emails from this address. Make sure you trust this sender before taking any actions.

Good afternoon!

Please find attached the Tennessee Bar Association's Comment for filing in No. ADM2026-00434 regarding the proposed changes to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 50A. Please contact me if you have any difficulty with the attachment.

Best,
Sheree

Sheree C. Wright
Executive Director
Tennessee Bar Association
3010 Poston Avenue
Nashville, TN 37203
(615) 383-7421
(615) 277-3212 direct
swright@tnbar.org