PRO BONO REPORT 2019

JUSTICE FOR ALL

A Tennessee Supreme Court Initiative

This report was prepared by the Tennessee Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission

The ATJ Commission's mission is to provide collaborative leadership to create solutions and resources that address and eliminate barriers to justice for all. Pro bono work plays a key role in the completion of the ATJ Commission's mission, and this report seeks to inform and support that pro bono work.

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INTRODUCTION

2019 PRO BONO REPORT

The 2019 Tennessee Pro Bono Report is a publication of the Tennessee Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission (the "ATJ Commission"). This edition of the report compiles and analyzes data collected by the ATJ Commission, the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility, the Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education and others.

The ATJ Commission is responsible for developing and updating a strategic plan 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 priority of the ATJ Commission is pro bono work that supports vulnerable Tennesseans.

As part of that pro bono work, the ATJ Commission produces this annual report on pro bono efforts across the state. The report aims to celebrate the year's accomplishments and to identify areas of progress and growth over the years.

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COLLECTING THE DATA

ATTORNEY VOLUNTARY PRO BONO REPORTING TENNESSEE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

The 2019 Tennessee Pro Bono Report covers pro bono initiatives and data including, but not limited to, the following:

- Information voluntarily submitted by attorneys to the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility ("BPR") as part of the its Annual Registration Statement.
- Information submitted by legal services providers, bar associations, law schools, mediation centers, and other organizations regarding services provided in 2019.

Rule 6.1 of the Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct asks that **attorneys aspire to provide 50 hours of pro bono legal services every year**. Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 10.10 encourages attorneys to provide information regarding pro bono activities completed in the past year to the BPR as part of the annual report. This means that pro bono activities reported in 2019 took place during 2018. The BPR provides that information to the ATJ Commission for the purposes of this report.

In 2019, 22,098 attorneys reported providing pro bono services to the BPR. This report separates those reports based on the attorneys' primary addresses.

Definitions

- "**All Attorneys**" – all attorneys licensed to practice law in Tennessee regardless of the location of the primary address provided to the BPR.
- "**Tennessee Attorneys**" – attorneys licensed to practice law in Tennessee whose primary address is located in Tennessee.

In keeping with Tennessee Rule of Professional Conduct section 6.1, the annual renewal statement surveys attorneys on pro bono activities completed in the following categories:

- Legal Services without a fee or at a substantially reduced fee to persons of limited means ("Persons of Limited Means");
- Legal services without a fee to non-profit organizations serving persons of limited means ("Nonprofit Organizations Serving Persons of Limited Means");
- Legal services to groups and organizations at a reduced fee when payment of standard fees would create financial hardship ("Groups and Organizations"); and
- Legal services to improve the law, the legal system, or the legal profession ("Improve the Law").

2019 PRO BONO BY THE NUMBERS

DATA SUMMARY

Attorneys Provided

660,158

Hours of Pro Bono

51.87%

TN Attorneys Provided Pro Bono

Over **50%** of Tennessee Attorneys provided Pro Bono for the last **3** Years

$ 141.9 Million worth of legal services donated for the year

Tennessee Attorneys reported an astounding 660,158 hours of pro bono work provided at an average rate of $215/hour

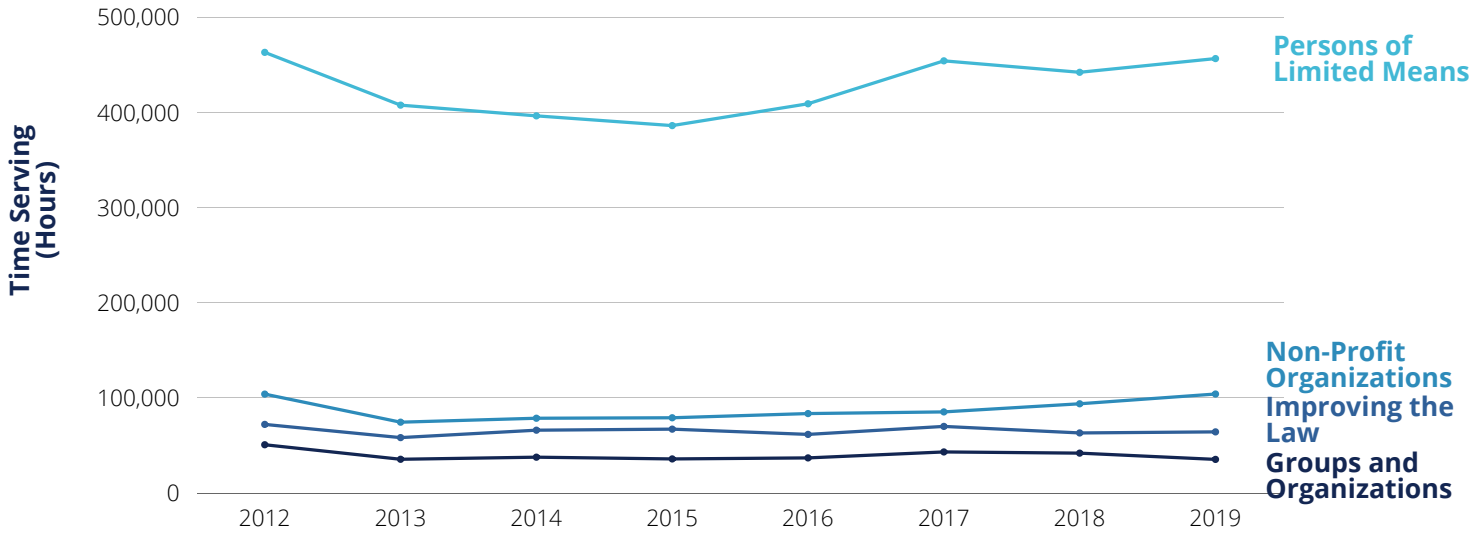
Attorneys Provided an Average of **70.5 Hours**

$ 1,012,747,540 in free legal services donated since the first Pro Bono Report in 2012

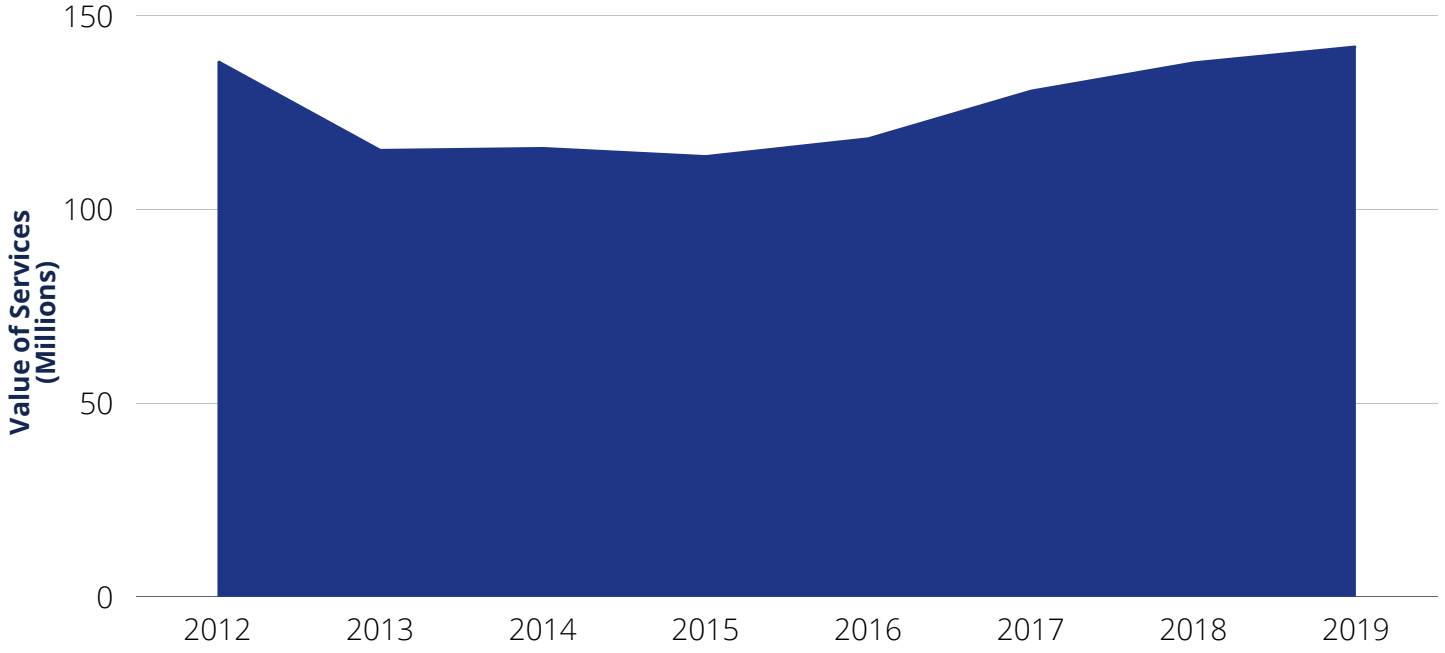
PRO BONO BY THE NUMBERS

GRAPH SUMMARY

TYPES OF SERVICE PROVIDED



MONETARY VALUE OF SERVICES DONATED IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS



ANNUAL COMPARISONS

NUMBER OF HOURS OF SERVICE

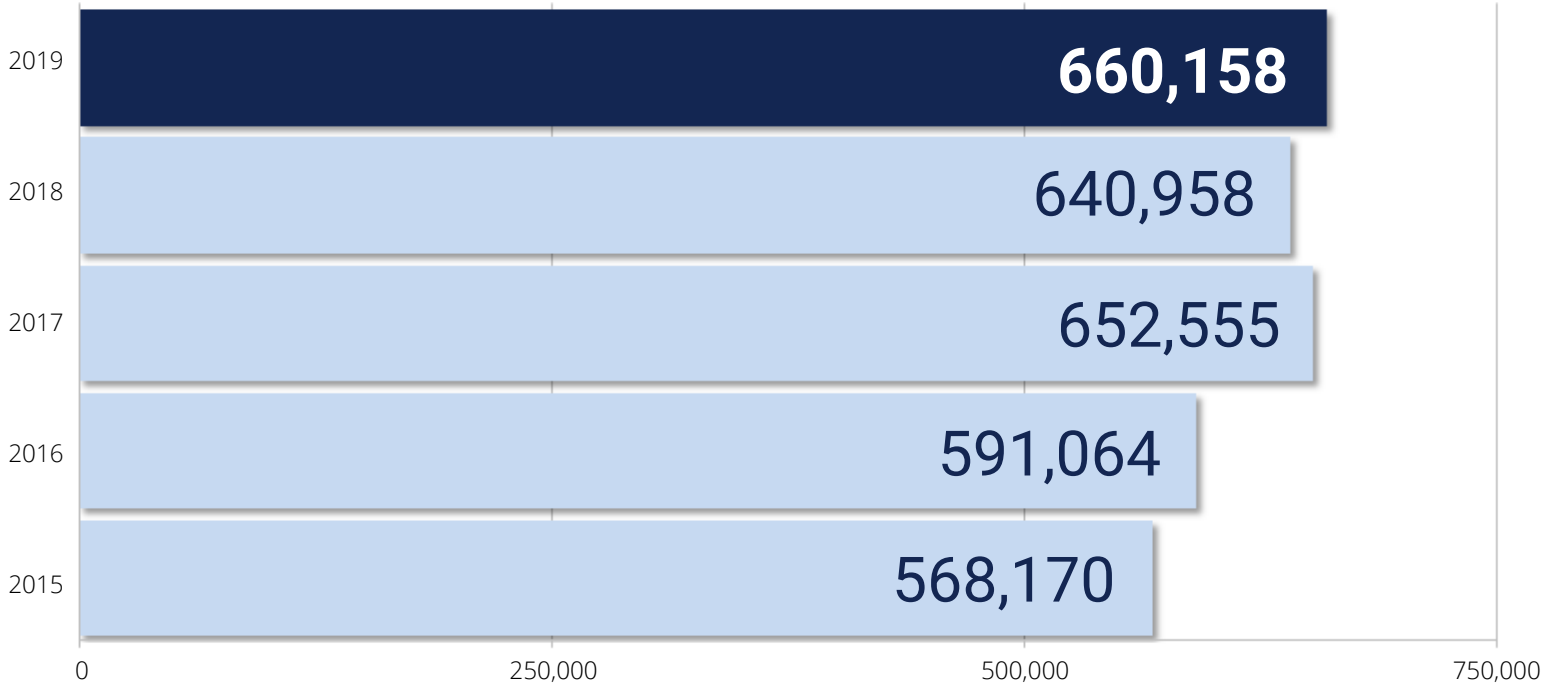
Tennessee Attorneys reported **19,200 more hours** of pro bono work in 2019 than they did in 2018. Over the course of the last five years, there has been a steady upward trend in the number of hours reported by Tennessee Attorneys.

For the third time since the Access to Justice Commission began publishing this data, more than half of Tennessee Attorneys reported providing pro bono services. The percentage of Tennessee Attorneys who reported providing pro bono hours decreased by less than a percentage point from **52.78% in 2018** to **51.87% in 2019.**

This chart shows the number of pro bono hours reported each year by Tennessee Attorneys from 2015 - 2019.

HOURS OF PRO BONO

PROVIDED BY TN ATTORNEYS BETWEEN 2015-2019



TENNESSEE ATTORNEYS

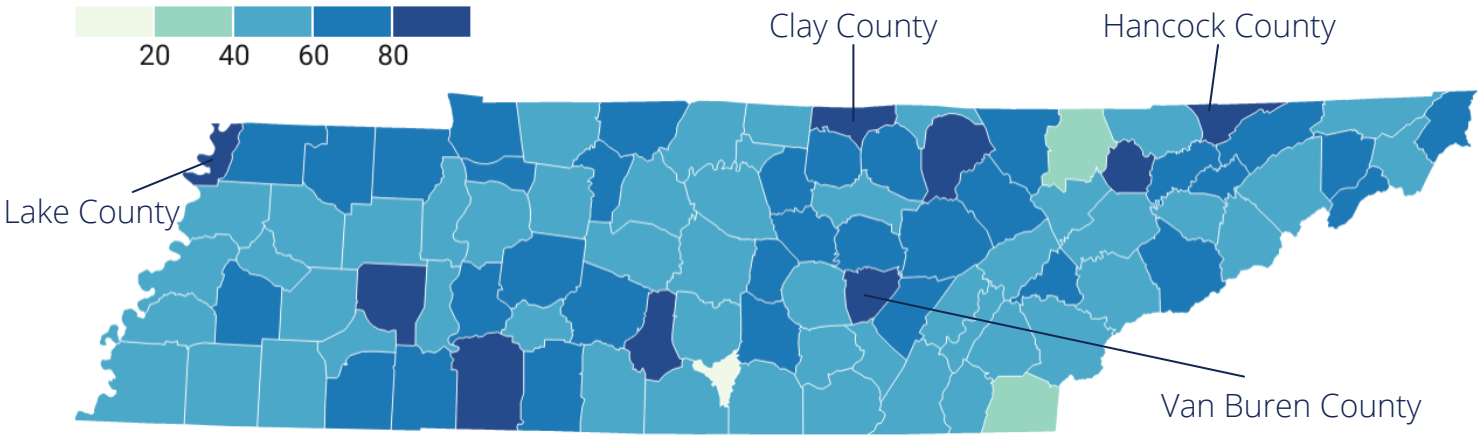
PERCENTAGE OF TN ATTORNEYS

1) Top Percentage of Tennessee Attorneys Providing Pro Bono: This category includes counties with the highest percentage of Tennessee Attorneys providing pro bono services of the Tennessee Attorneys that reside in the county.

Four Tennessee counties can boast **100% participation in pro bono** activities. That honor goes to **Clay, Hancock, Lake, and Van Buren counties**. Fentress, Union, Marshall, Henderson, and Wayne counties all had participation levels at 80% or greater.

Clay	Hancock	Lake	Van Buren	Fentress	Union	Marshall	Henderson	Wayne
100%	100%	100%	100%	94%	86%	85%	84%	80%

The values show the percentage of Tennessee Attorneys participating in pro bono in a given county as a percentage of the total number of Tennessee Attorneys who reported an address in that county to the BPR.



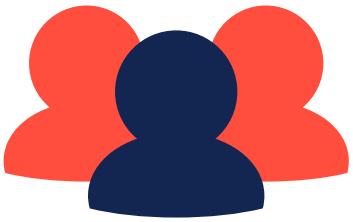
Created with Datawrapper

The map shows the counties with the highest percentage of attorneys participating in pro bono.

TENNESSEE ATTORNEYS

PER CAPITA OF TN ATTORNEYS

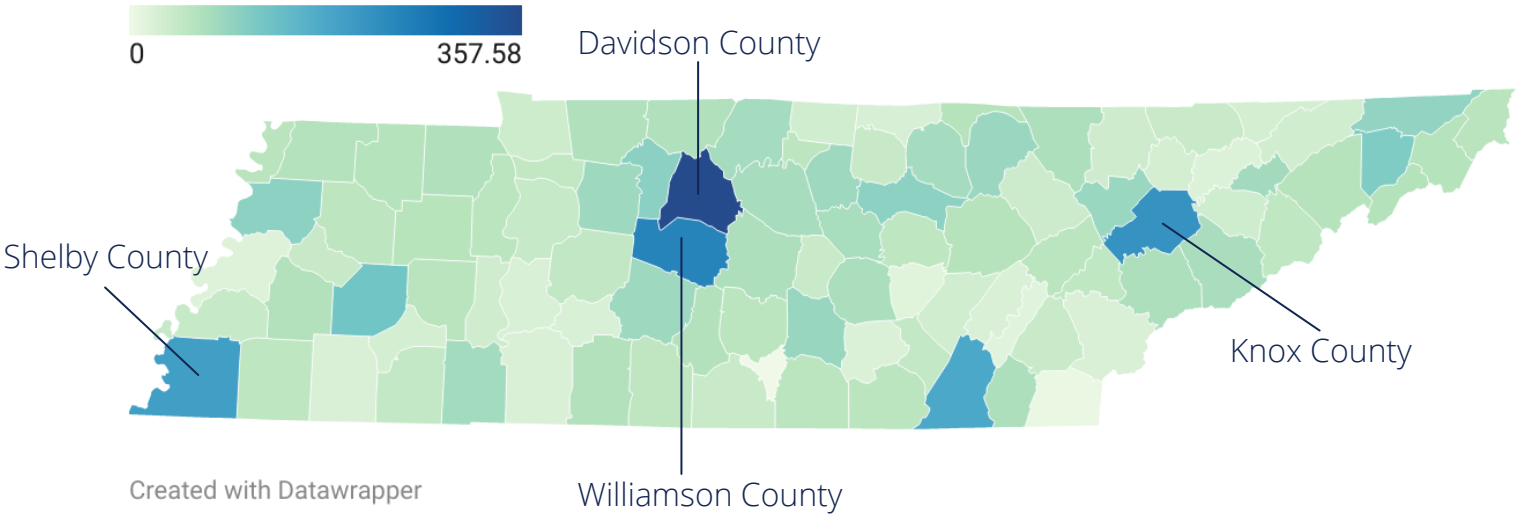
2) Top Tennessee Attorneys Providing Pro Bono Per Capita: This category includes the counties with the highest percentage of Tennessee Attorneys providing pro bono based on the total population of the county in 2018.



The counties with the most attorneys reporting pro bono per capita are **Davidson, Williamson, Knox, and Shelby Counties.***

Davidson	Williamson	Knox	Shelby
357.6	246.9	220.8	198.2

The values shown are per 100,000 residents.



The map shows the per capita number of Tennessee Attorneys reporting pro bono by county. The values shown are per 100,000 residents.

*The 2018 Pro Bono Report incorrectly designated Madison, Davidson, Williamson, and Maury Counties as the top pro bono providers per capita. That designation should have gone to Davidson, Williamson, Knox, and Shelby Counties.

TENNESSEE ATTORNEYS

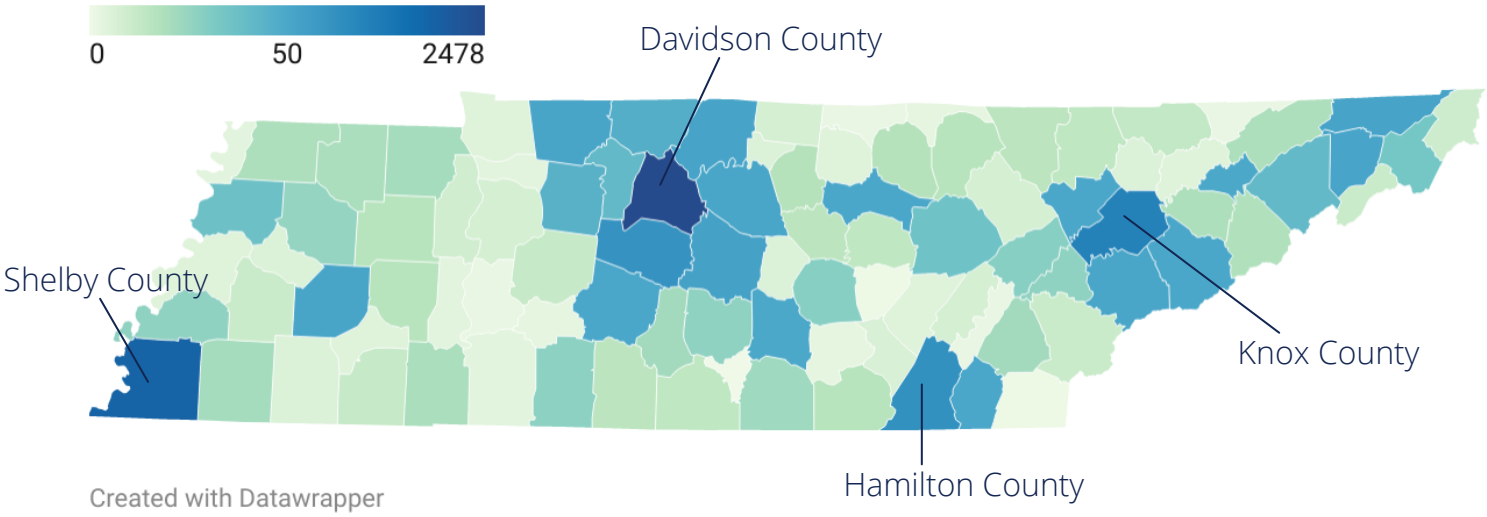
NUMBER OF TN ATTORNEYS

3) Most Tennessee Attorneys Reporting Pro Bono: This category includes the counties with the greatest number of Tennessee Attorneys who reported pro bono and reported residences in that county.

The counties reporting the highest number of attorneys participating in pro bono were **Davidson, Shelby, Knox, Hamilton, and Williamson Counties.** These counties received the same designations in 2018, and have defended their respective ranks. The map below shows the number of attorneys participating in pro bono by county.

Davidson	Shelby	Knox	Hamilton
2,478	1,857	1,038	655

The values show the number of Tennessee Attorneys participating in pro bono.



The map shows the number of attorneys participating in pro bono per county.

TENNESSEE ATTORNEYS

SUMMARY

The table below shows the top 20 counties in each of the 3 categories: top percentage of Tennessee Attorneys providing pro bono, top Tennessee Attorneys providing pro bono per capita, and top number of Tennessee Attorneys providing pro bono.

Top Percentage of Tennessee Attorneys Providing Pro Bono	(%)	Top Tennessee Attorneys Providing Pro Bono Per Capita	# of Attorneys per 100,000 residents	Top Number of Tennessee Attorneys Providing Pro Bono	# of Attorneys
Clay	100%	Davidson	358	Davidson	2478
Hancock	100%	Williamson	247	Shelby	1857
Lake	100%	Knox	221	Knox	1038
Van Buren	100%	Shelby	198	Hamilton	655
Fentress	94%	Hamilton	178	Williamson	589
Union	86%	Madison	126	Rutherford	225
Marshall	85%	Washington	111	Sullivan	149
Henderson	84%	Cheatham	100	Sumner	147
Wayne	80%	Putnam	100	Washington	144
Smith	77%	Dyer	99	Montgomery	138
Johnson	77%	Sullivan	94	Madison	123
Cannon	75%	Coffee	88	Wilson	107
DeKalb	75%	Anderson	87	Blount	92
Loudon	75%	Fentress	86	Maury	81
Morgan	73%	Smith	85	Putnam	79
Bledsoe	71%	Maury	84	Bradley	74
Hardin	71%	Dickson	84	Sevier	71
Jackson	71%	Hamblen	79	Anderson	67
Stewart	71%	Hardin	78	Hamblen	51
Overton	71%	Sumner	77	Coffee	50

*The 2018 Pro Bono Report incorrectly designated Madison, Davidson, Williamson, and Maury Counties as the top pro bono providers per capita. That designation should have gone to Davidson, Williamson, Knox, and Shelby Counties.

SURVEY RESULTS

SUCCESS STORIES FROM 2019

In 2019, the ATJ Commission surveyed Bar Associations, LSC Funded Organizations, Non-LSC Funded Organizations*, Clinic Providers, and Faith-Based Organizations about their pro bono activities.

These organizations are typically locally based, allowing their member attorneys to see the need for pro bono work in their own communities. Through recognition programs, provision of needed resources, and specific initiatives, these individual organizations provide critical mobilization of Tennessee Attorneys for the state's pro bono initiative.

The surveys asked for information about how many clients the organization served, and what kinds of services the organization provided. The surveys also asked for information about the size, structure, and priorities of the organizations. These surveys provide a more complete picture of the pro bono landscape through qualitative data.

Survey Data Highlights

86 Hours of Pro Bono — Average hours donated through Faith and Justice Partners

178 Tennesseans Served — Average number of Tennesseans served by each Clinical Provider

1,230 Tennesseans — Served by Local Bar Associations

*LSC Funded Organizations are legal service providers that receive at least some funding from the Legal Services Corporation.

BAR ASSOCIATIONS

SUCCESS STORIES

Bar Associations aim to serve both lawyers and the public by providing a sense of community to lawyers and promoting justice through pro bono initiatives. Below are some highlights of the information gathered from the nine bar associations participating in the 2019 survey.

Reporting Bar Associations include the Maury County Bar, the Anderson County Bar, the Hawkins County Bar, the Memphis Bar, the Cumberland County Bar, the Montgomery County Bar, and the Paris-Henry County Bar. These bar associations range in size from 25 members to 2,000 members and served populations all over the state including single parents, incarcerated persons, and unhoused populations.

83.3% of bar associations reported at least 10% of members participated in pro bono efforts.

Celebrating New and Ongoing Initiatives

New Initiative

The Anderson County Bar Association has committed to annual expungement clinics and ensured success by creating its first-ever expungement committee.

Ongoing Initiative

The Montgomery County Bar Association provided hundreds of expungements through its expungement clinics, and hundreds of wills through its Wills for Heroes programs.

LSC FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS

SUCCESS STORIES

There are four legal aid providers in Tennessee that receive federal funding from the Legal Services Corporation ("LSC"). They are Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands, Memphis Area Legal Services, West Tennessee Legal Services, and the Legal Aid of East Tennessee. These agencies employ an army of attorneys to provide free, high-quality legal representation to qualifying Tennesseans. In addition, these organizations mobilize local attorneys to participate in pro bono efforts. The provided maps show each organization's service area.

Memphis Area Legal Services

Memphis Area Legal Services' Restoration of Rights Project grew, increasing the number of volunteers and clients served. During the summer months, Memphis Area Legal Services partnered with Restore Your Vote to help with voter restoration efforts.

West Tennessee Legal Services

2019 was a year of firsts for West Tennessee Legal Services. They held the first-ever expungement clinic in Hardeman County in 2019 and launched their Contract Attorney Program.

*LSC Funded Organizations are legal service providers that receive at least some funding from the Legal Services Corporation.

LSC FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS

MORE SUCCESS STORIES

Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands

Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands created new clinics throughout Middle Tennessee. LASMTC partnered with Operation Stand Down to start a new clinic in Clarksville, with the Rutherford and Cannon County Bar Association to support their Greenhouse Ministries Clinic, with the Maury County Medical Center to establish a monthly clinic, and with the Nashville Public Library to establish another monthly legal clinic.

Legal Aid of East Tennessee

Legal Aid of East Tennessee placed several hundred clients with pro bono attorneys. Legal Aid of East Tennessee also partnered with the Tennessee Faith and Justice Alliance to create new legal clinics with local faith communities.

NON-LSC FUNDED ORGANIZATIONS

SUCCESS STORIES

Tennessee Non-LSC funded organizations serve a multitude of purposes and missions. These nonprofit organizations often serve their communities through individual specializations that benefit Tennesseans all over the state with legal issues ranging from copyright to immigration. Responding organizations include the Community Legal Center, Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors, and the Tennessee Arts & Business Council.

In 2019, these organizations drafted documents, wrote letters, interviewed clients, and provided full representation to Tennesseans in all walks of life.

599 Tennesseans matched with a volunteer attorney for limited scope representation

Celebrating the Work

Putting In the Hours

In 2019, Non-LSC funded organizations reported a total of **865 hours** of pro bono service to Tennesseans.

Clinical Success

Responding organizations served **222 Tennesseans** through 18 legal clinics offered during 2019.

CLINIC PROVIDERS

LAW SCHOOL CLINICS

Legal clinics offer Tennesseans the opportunity to have the undivided attention of a lawyer for free. While serving their neighbors, pro bono attorneys and law students get the opportunity to learn new skills and support their communities. This group is a big tent, and includes clinics connected to all kinds of organizations from law schools to bar associations. Responding clinics include the Kingsport Bar Association/ Legal Aid of East Tennessee Free Legal Clinic, the University of Tennessee Civil Mediation Clinic, the University of Tennessee Family Mediation Clinic, the University of Tennessee Community Economic Development Clinic, the University of Memphis Elder Law Clinic, Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberlands Free Legal Clinics, Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville, and the Non-Custodial Advocate Office in Memphis, Tennessee.

88 Number of clients that received holistic representation by the Elder Law Clinic at the University of Memphis Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law.

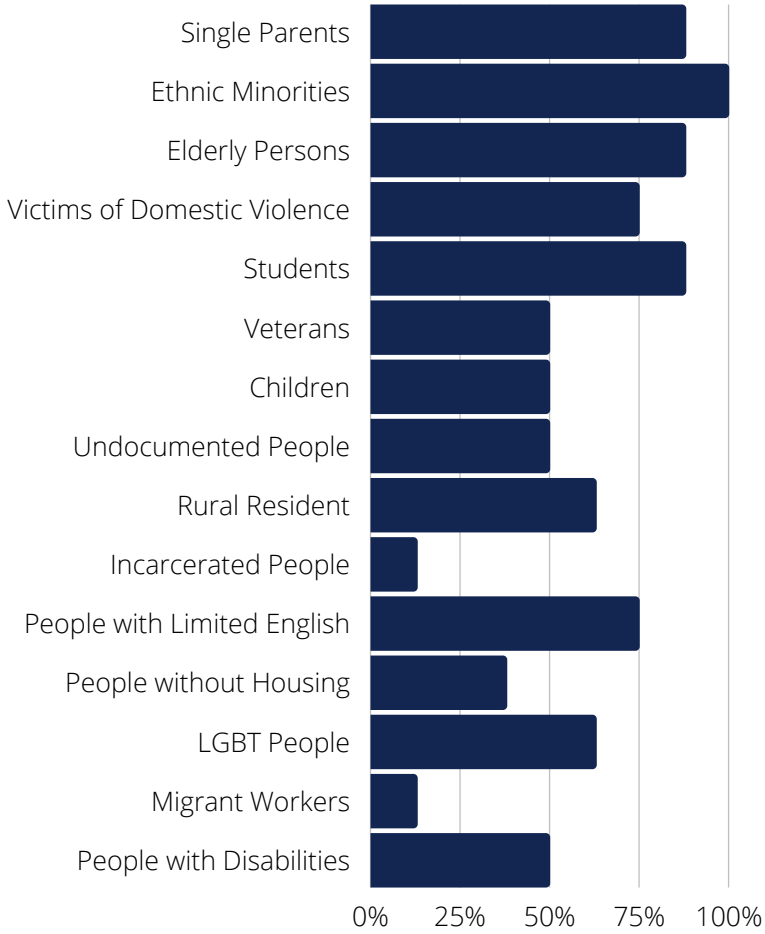
Innovative Clinical Initiatives

University of Tennessee College of Law

The University of Tennessee College of Law's Mediation Clinic partnered with the Knox County Community Mediation Center to mediate cases in Juvenile Court and in General Sessions Court in Knox County. The University of Tennessee College of Law's Community Economic Development Clinic provided representation to 48 nonprofits, small businesses, entrepreneurs and artists.

CLINIC PROVIDERS

TRADITIONAL AND VIRTUAL CLINICS



The graph shows some demographic data about clients served by clinical programs across the state.

2,543

Hours of pro bono service provided by the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland's clinic programs.

4,478

Number of clients served by reporting clinic programs.

Arts & Business

Almost 250 attorneys volunteered their time to help the Arts & Business Council of Greater Nashville support the legal needs of creative entrepreneurs in the Nashville area.

Juvenile Court

The Non-Custodial Advocate Office addressed over 3,000 legal issues in the Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Court during 2019.

FAITH AND JUSTICE ALLIANCE PARTNERS

PARTNERS AROUND THE STATE

Faith-based organizations play a critical role in Tennessee's Pro Bono Initiative. Often, people turn to their local houses of worship during times of crisis. All over the state, legal organizations and faith-based organizations partnered to ensure that Tennesseans can access justice.

Responding organizations include Compassionate Counsel, Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition, Lipscomb University Fred D. Gray Institute for Law, Justice and Society, and Karnes Legal Services.

257 hours donated by TFJA partners.

139 number of people served by TFJA partner organizations

Our Partners Service

Compassionate Counsel

The nonprofit Compassionate Counsel served 109 Tennesseans.

Karnes Legal Services

Karnes Legal Services provided full representation to 15 Tennesseans.

TIRRC

The Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition provided **150** Hours of pro bono assistance to individuals.

LAW SCHOOLS

NEXT GENERATION OF LAW

Law students are some of the most innovative and hard-working advocates for access to justice projects. From clinic programs to student pro bono organizations, there is a diverse range of services provided by these bright, budding attorneys.

Responding Universities include Nashville School of Law, the University of Tennessee College of Law, Vanderbilt University Law School, and Belmont University College of Law. Collectively, these law schools made incredible strides toward expanding access to justice in Tennessee.

In total, law students provided 15,765 hours of pro bono service to individual Tennesseans. That's an average of about 10 hours of pro bono service per law student. These student leaders made a truly meaningful impact in the lives of a staggering number of Tennesseans.

Nashville School of Law

Nashville School of Law provided **765 hours** of pro bono service. NSL's projects primarily consisted of partnering with local agencies to provide support for legal aid events. The Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition, Thistle Farms, Justice for Our Neighbors, and local expungement clinics are some of the highlights. Nashville School of Law also had many students who continued their work with the Juvenile Court Custody Clinic and internships in a pro bono capacity long after they completed the hours necessary to receive credit.

LAW SCHOOLS

NEXT GENERATION OF LAW

The University of Tennessee College of Law

The University of Tennessee College of Law served **200** clients and provided 1**000** hours of pro bono service through its student pro bono project. Students traveled all over the southeast for Alternative Spring Break Trips to provide hundreds of hours through immigration services, reservation legislation, military base work, and many others.

Vanderbilt University Law School

Vanderbilt University Law School students participated in a variety of pro bono projects in 2019 including: Shade Tree Medical Legal Partnership, annual Pro Bono Breaks program, Voting Rights Restoration Project, Woodbine Immigration Clinic, Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic & Sexual Violence, Immigration Legal Clinic, and a remote research project for The Working World.

Belmont University College of Law

Students at **Belmont University College of Law** performed significant services for persons in need in coordination with a wide variety of community partners. For example, the law school and the Belmont Ministry Center began operating a new recurring clinic. Additionally, more than 50% of the faculty and 25% of law students at Belmont University participated in pro bono efforts.

MEDIATION CENTERS

REDUCING COSTLY LITIGATION

Mediators are a vital part of Tennessee's access to justice landscape. Mediators help Tennesseans resolve legal disputes while reducing the immense cost and stress of litigation. Mediation centers work hard to offer Tennessee communities affordable and accessible mediation services. Below are some of the successes that Tennessee mediators and mediation centers shared with the ATJ Commission.

737 Hours of pro bono mediation services provided to individuals by the **Community Mediation Center.**

2,174 Tennesseans matched with a free mediator by the **Nashville Conflict Resolution Center.**

1st JDAC

The **First Judicial District Assistance Corporation** matched more than 100 individuals with a free mediator, and **60** individuals with a reduced-fee mediation.

23rd DJA

23rd District Judicial Advocates helped **Drug Court** participants reenter society and fostered connections between participants and their families. They provided **200** hours of pro bono mediation services to individuals.

LAW FIRMS

HONOR ROLL

Law firms contribute immeasureable services to Tennesseans who struggle to access justice every year.

Adelman Law Firm;
Agee, Owens & Cooper;
Alan D. Hall Attorney at Law PLC;
Anderson Busby PLLC;
Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz;
Bone McAllester Norton, PLLC;
Boon Legal, LLC;
Bradley, Arrant, Boult, Cummings LLP;
Bramlett Law Offices;
Brandon, Brandon, and Stewart;
Bullock, Fly, Hornsby & Evans;
Burkhalter & Burkhalter;
Byrne & Associates, PLLC;
Carrie Searcy, Attorney at Law;
Catherine Moore;
Chattanooga Legal Group PC;
Cohen & Cohen;
Community Mediation Center;
D Jeannine Dalton, Attorney at Law;
David R. Yoder;
Denise V. Pratt, Attorney at Law;
Disability Law Group;
Dodson Parker Behm & Capparella, PC;
Duncan Hatcher Holland & Fleenor, PC;
Egerton AcAfee Amistead & Davis;
Erin Al. Stubbs;
Farrar I Wright, PLLC;
General Knox Law, PC;
Global Intellectual Property Asset Management, PLLC;
Grimmett Law Firm, PLLC;
Herndon Coleman Brading and McKee, LLP;
Hodges Law, LLC;
Holland Law PLLC;
Integrity Law Firm, PLLC;
Jamie L. Herman;
Joe Kwon Law;
John A. Bell, Attorney at Law;
John W. Routh;
Judge Bill Swann;
Law Firm of Kelly Tomlinson;
Law Office of Ben Sissman;
Law Office of Bryan Hathorn;
Law Office of Candyce Leeper;
Law Office of Douglas K. Dennis,
Law Office of Lisa Webb;
Law Office of Mark A. Skelton;
Law Office of Wayne Halper;
Law Offices of Brad Morgan;
Law Offices of Erin Coleman;
Law Offices of Loren E. Plemmons, Attorney at Law;
Law Offices of Mayer and Newton;
Law Offices of Nancy A. Cogar;
Lawless & Associates, P.C.;
Lester Law;
Lonnie W. Ayers;
Marcus M. Reaves, Attorney at Law;
Midtown Law & Mediation;
Miller & Martin PLLC;
Murfree & Goodman, PLLC;
Murphy, Cox, Franks, & Lasater, P.C.; Odeneal Law;
Ostermann Law Firm, PLC;
Parker, Lawrence, Cantrell & Smith;
Patterson Intellectual Property Law;
Ritchie, Dillard, Davies & Johnson, P.C.;
Robinson, Reagan & Young, PLLC;
Robson & Lopez LLC;
Ruchee J. Patel, Attorney at Law;
Safley Law;
Sandra Gibbs Law, Inc.;
Sanford Heisler Sharp, LLP;
Santana Law Firm, PLLC;
Sherrard, Roe, Voigt & Harbison;
Smoky Mountain Law;
Sonia Boss Law;
Teague Law Firm;
Tellus Law;
The Elder Law Office;
The Bell Law Office;
The Law Office of David J. McKenzie;
The Swafford Law Firm, PLLC;
The Veldman Law Firm;
Ufford Law & Mediation Offices;
Walter H. Stubbs;
Washington Law & Gov't Relations;
Watson, Roach, Batson & Lauderback;
Whatley & Associates

LAW FIRMS

SUCCESS STORIES

Without fail, law firms play a critical role in pro bono efforts every year. Law firms provide leadership in pro bono initiatives, dependable partnerships with nonprofit organizations, and volunteer manpower to ensure access to justice events are successful. Below are just a few of the inspiring pro bono stories that law firms provided to the ATJ Commission.

Santana Law Firm, PLLC - "Each year we offer one full month of free consults to answer immigration law questions. We charge low fees to seniors, minors, military families, and existing clients with their immigration matters. We partner with Immigration Equality to provide pro-bono representation to the LGBTQ community."

Jamie L. Herman

"I avoided foreclosure on a reverse mortgage and enabled an 82 year-old woman to remain in her home."

Safley Law

"I represented a woman with cancer whose insurance company would not cover her chemotherapy; I represented a consumer who was defrauded and did not receive the services she had purchased; I represented a college student with a disability whose college refused to give her accommodations required by law."

LAW FIRMS

MORE SUCCESS STORIES

Marcus M. Reaves

"[I] assisted a rural resident in keeping her USDA home and assisted organizations with annual fundraisers to upgrade rural communities."

Joe Kwon Law

Joe Kwon Law - "Through pro bono work, Joe Kwon has been able to serve victims of domestic violence seeking low bono and pro bono representation to get orders of protection. Joe Kwon has also served disabled and mentally ill clients in their conservatorship/guardianship cases."

Murfree & Goodman, PLLC

"We were successful in getting a three-year-old judgement which had been entered against a limited means client in excess of **$86,000 vacated**. Collection procedures had already started against the client. The Court not only vacated its own judgment, but also ordered that the previously-garnished funds be returned to the client."

LAW FIRMS

MORE SUCCESS STORIES

Miller & Martin, PLLC

"We successfully handled a complicated appeal in a divorce action, helped a client with disability and social security benefits, represented clients in a personal injury matter, and helped an active service member with an appeal in denial of a claim for benefits."

Smith | Wright, PLLC*

"We provide pro bono and reduced fee services to clients who come to us for help on real estate, wills, trusts, insurance, and landlord/tenant matters."

*Farrar Wright, PLLC originally reported this entry. The firm's name has since changed to Smith Wright, PLLC.

Bradley Arant Boult Cummings, LLP

"In Nashville, we began a partnership with the newly-launched Tennessee Innocence Project and expanded our work with Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors to include assisting Tennessee Justice for Our Neighbors clients with DACA renewal applications. We also started a new project with the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee & the Cumberlands and the Family Safety Center of Greater Nashville to assist victims of domestic violence with obtaining orders of protection."

LAW FIRMS

MORE SUCCESS STORIES

Robinson, Reagan &Young

"We provided services to a father who temporarily lost custody of his two sons because he had very limited income. We provided legal services and family and individual counseling to prevent this father from collapsing and losing total faith in the legal system. He has both boys today and all three are very happy together."

Law Office of David J. McKenzie

"We strive to help others in the areas of mentorship to youth organizations such as the Marshall County Teen Court program. We mainly focus on serving the youth of our community. We have seen students flourish and take active roles in both organizational and civic leadership positions."

Anderson Busby, PLLC

"We provided services at no fee to individuals and organizations. We also provided significant hours of service to our state and local bar associations and also to nonprofit organizations serving persons of limited means."

Law Office of Douglas K. Dennis

"My office spends approximately 3 hours a week giving free legal guidance to various individuals who obviously cannot afford to retain a lawyer and are in some form of distress."

IN CONCLUSION

2019 is an excellent example of Tennessee's persistent volunteer spirit. Continuing to build upon the success of previous years, Tennessee Attorneys reported more pro bono hours than ever and increased the proportion of Tennessee Attorneys engaged in pro bono efforts.

The efforts of attorneys across the state to make justice accessible for all Tennesseans is truly extraordinary. Volunteer attorneys helped keep Tennesseans in their homes, keep families safe, and helped Tennesseans provide for their families. Pro bono efforts have made an significant difference in the lives of so many Tennesseans, and the ATJ Commission is proud to celebrate and support those efforts.

This report would not be possible without the diligent participation of the many dedicated legal service organizations, mediation providers, law schools, clinical providers, faith-based organizations, bar associations, and law firms. The ATJ Commission thanks you for all of your hard work and cooperation in creating the 2019 Pro Bono Report.