

Tennessee Faith and Justice Alliance

TFJA



THE TENNESSEE
FAITH & JUSTICE
ALLIANCE

Special Edition #PBFDays Newsletter



Dear Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance members,

The long awaited Pro Bono & Faith Days (#PBFDays) is finally upon us! Here, the Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance asks the faith community across the state of Tennessee to celebrate Pro Bono Month by raising awareness about pro bono resources and opportunities for involvement statewide, and hosting #PBFDays events, celebrating existing faith & justice programming, and joining the conversation and the fight for equal access to justice, for disadvantaged Tennesseans of all walks of life. **We know that an estimated 60% of people turn to their faith leader first in a time of crisis.** Therefore, there is no better place to begin raising awareness about free legal resources in Tennessee, pro bono resources available, and ways to get involved that in our faith communities. We are very excited about the great things that are happening across the state as part of #PBFDays, and hope that you and your house of worship will join the conversation and join the alliance!!

In addition to our Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance membership, we have asked over 80 houses of worship or faith communities across the state to partner for our #PBFDays with some form of participation as fits their faith community.

Many faith communities across the state have already committed to sharing information about #PBFDays, the free legal resources available in the state, and the Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance in their bulletins, newsletters, social media pages, email lists, and even from the pulpit. Others committed to hosting a #PBFDays event or supporting an existing event in their community with free legal resources.

If your house of worship or faith community has not yet committed to participate, it is not too late! Involvement can be as simple as sharing information with your membership in the state (a sample e-mail to send faith leadership is included with this e-mail), posting on social media pages, or discussing in your Small Groups. Or, it could be something more involved, like getting attorneys together to host legal "office hours" at your house of worship (all the forms and resources they'd need are available on our website), a legal clinic, a legal information spotlight or training for the 1-844-Help4TN phone line and www.help4tn.org website, etc.

As part of #PBFDays, the Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance has developed two social media platforms: an [Instagram Page](#) and a [Facebook Group](#). **We are posting information about #PBFDays, the legal needs gap, food deserts & legal deserts, and ways the faith and justice community can "join at the table" to make finding legal answers as comfortable and familiar as a peanut butter & fluff sandwich.** Hashtag us at #pbfdays & #howdoyoupbf? Send us your #PBFDays photos and we'll feature them! <https://www.instagram.com/pbfdays/>
<https://www.facebook.com/JusticeForAllTN/>

If you can't organize something during #PBFDays, that is fine! **Use the momentum of #PBFDays to encourage your faith membership to get involved, and plan something down the road when you have the time and resources in place.** It is *always* a good time to talk about where to find free and low cost legal resources for people who need help!

We are pleased to report that there are Special #PBFDays events happening all across the state, in every major division. We have been overwhelmed by the support for this first annual #PBFDays, and look forward to even more events in future years! **Currently, these are the TFJA events that will be happening/have happened across the state as part of PBFDays that we know about.**** If you want your event to be included, please let us know!

Poverty & the Arts Kickoff, Nashville -- September 11th

Green Street Ministries & West End UMC Legal Information & a Sandwich, Nashville -- October 1st

Open Table Nashville Homeless Day of Action, Nashville - October 10th

WTLS & Reelfoot Rural Ministries Clinic, Dyer County -- October 17th

Lipscomb & St. James Missionary Baptist Church Clinic, Nashville -- October 17th

American Civil Liberties Union & American Muslim Advisory Council Know Your Rights & Faith Leader Training; Partner, Murfreesboro -- October 20th

New Covenant Christian Church Expungement Clinic & Community Day, Nashville -- October 21st

Compassionate Counsel Clinic, Hendersonville -- October 21st

The Healing Center Expungement Clinic, Memphis -- October 21st

Higher Ground Clinic, Murfreesboro -- October 21st

Gospel Justice Initiative Office Hour Clinic, Chattanooga -- October 21st

Faith & Culture Center Our Muslim Neighbor Initiative, Nashville -- October 21st

SIJ and Children's Asylum Training: Immigration Relief for Children, Chattanooga -- October 22nd

Pro Bono CLE & TFJA Training partner with Legal Aid of East TN, Gospel Justice Initiative -- October 23rd

Jones Memorial United Methodist Gospel Justice Initiative, Christian Legal Society, Legal Aid of East TN Clinic, Chattanooga -- October 24th

Loaves and Fishes Clinic, Clarksville -- October 25th

Beck Cultural Exchange Center, KBA, University of Tennessee College of Law, & LAET Expungement Clinic, Knoxville -- October 28th

American Muslim Advisory Council, American Civil Liberties Union, Community Legal Center Know Your Rights, Memphis -- October 29th

East TN Interpreter Event, Nashville -- November 3rd

El Shaddai Clinic, Nashville -- November 4th

TIRRC Family Defense Workshops, Nashville, Cookeville, Shelbyville, Johnson City, Memphis -- October 25th- November 14th

**Notably, there are additional non-TFJA clinics statewide, that we encourage faith communities & TFJA members to support. Please see our October and upcoming November newsletters for a full list of clinics. Please see our social media pages or e-mail kimi.dement@gmail.com for dates/locations of all events.

Pro Bono Celebration, Recognition, & Fundraising Events

In addition, as it is Pro Bono Month, and #PBFDays is designed to recognize, celebrate, and support pro bono month in the state, we encourage you to attend one or more of these Pro Bono Recognition and Legal Services Fundraising events if you can. **For every \$1 spent on civil legal services for low income Tennesseans, \$11 goes back into the community.** Attend one of these events, and have your dinner yield more than a 1,000% return on investment!

East TN Pro Bono Recognition Event (Kingsport) 10/13
Middle TN Pro Bono Recognition Event (Nashville) 10/18
Hall of Fame Night (Chattanooga) 10/19
Forging Justice (Knoxville) 10/20
Justice for All Ball (Memphis) 10/28

The Stories of Pro Bono in Tennessee

Finally, although #PBFDays is all about our faith communities, we don't want to leave out our attorneys! An easy way for attorneys who want to participate in #PBFDays pro bono who do not live near a clinic is to answer our Stories of Pro Bono in Tennessee Survey and/or ABA Free Legal Answers. Keep up the good work!!

The Stories of Pro Bono in Tennessee survey can be accessed here: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ProBonoStories>
ABA Free Legal Answers can be accessed here: <https://www.freelegalanswers.org/>

OCT
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Pro Bono and Faith Days

Everyone has the right to an attorney, correct? Think again. The constitutional right to an attorney only applies when someone has been charged with a felony or is at the risk of losing their liberty. But, what about victims of domestic violence or other crimes? Where would you turn if your employer owed you a paycheck? If needed benefits were denied?

Each year, more than 60 percent of disadvantaged Tennesseans have at least one civil legal problem and have nowhere to turn. The Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance is the faith community's opportunity to step forward and be that vital connection.

What's your recipe to help?

#PBFDAYS

HELP4TN.ORG

Created by the Tennessee Supreme Court Access to Justice Commission.