

2020

PRO BONO REPORT



JUSTICE FOR ALL

A Tennessee Supreme Court Initiative

2020

2020 PRO BONO REPORT

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

2020 Pro Bono Report

The 2020 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 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 supports vulnerable Tennesseans.

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THE PANDEMIC

A Note

The pandemic presented enormous and unprecedented challenges to access to justice efforts all over the world. In Tennessee, the legal community rallied to address the challenges that the pandemic presented. The achievements of Tennessee's devoted advocates during this pandemic speak volumes about the creativity, resilience, and dedication of Tennessee's legal community.

Much of the data for this report was collected in 2020 about pro bono activities completed in 2019. While those pro bono activities were completed before the pandemic, it is uncertain how the pandemic may have affected the reporting process in 2020.

It is important to note that the pandemic may have affected these results, however, in spite of any effect that the pandemic may have had, 2020 was a record-breaking year for pro bono efforts in Tennessee. Together, Tennessee Attorneys performed pro bono legal services to Tennesseans valued at 146.9 million dollars. This is a 5 million dollar increase from the 2019 Report.

Tennessee Attorneys stepped up and offered invaluable services to their neighbors at an enormous scale during the pandemic. The Access to Justice Commission is proud to support this Volunteer State.

COLLECTING THE DATA

BPR Reporting

The 2020 Tennessee Pro Bono Report covers pro bono initiatives and data including information submitted by attorneys to the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility ("BPR") as part of the its Annual Registration Statement, and information submitted to the Access to Justice Commission.

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 calendar year to the BPR as part of the annual report. This means that pro bono activities reported during 2020 took place during 2019. The BPR provides that information to the ATJ Commission for the purposes of this report.

In 2020, 11,536 attorneys reported providing pro bono services to the BPR. This report separates those reports based on the attorneys' primary address.

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”).**

PRO BONO BY THE NUMBERS

Tennessee Attorneys

TN Attorneys Provided
683,208

Hours of Pro Bono

53.2%

of TN Attorneys
Provided Pro Bono

**\$ 1.247
Billion**

in free legal services
donated since the first
Pro Bono Report in 2012.

\$146.9 Million

WORTH OF LEGAL
SERVICES DONATED FOR
THE YEAR.

TN ATTORNEYS REPORTED 683,208 HOURS OF PRO BONO WORK PROVIDED AT AN AVERAGE RATE OF \$215/HOUR

TN ATTORNEYS PROVIDED
AN AVERAGE OF **70.5 Hours**

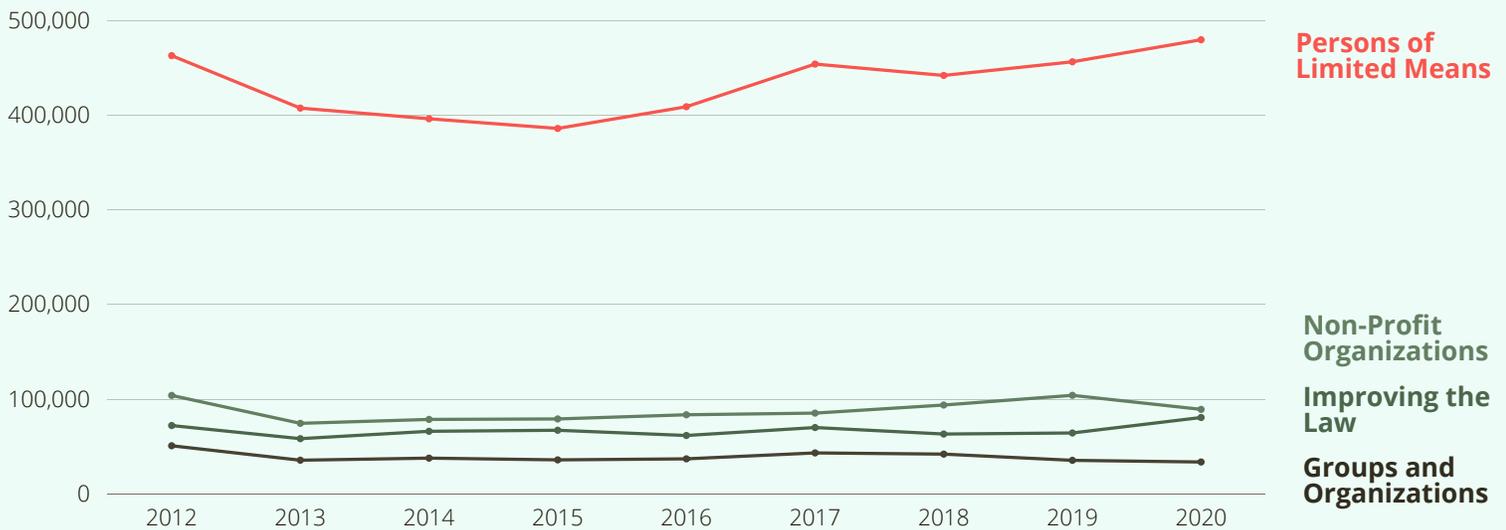
4 Years

OF 50% OR GREATER PARTICIPATION IN
PRO BONO BY TENNESSEE ATTORNEYS

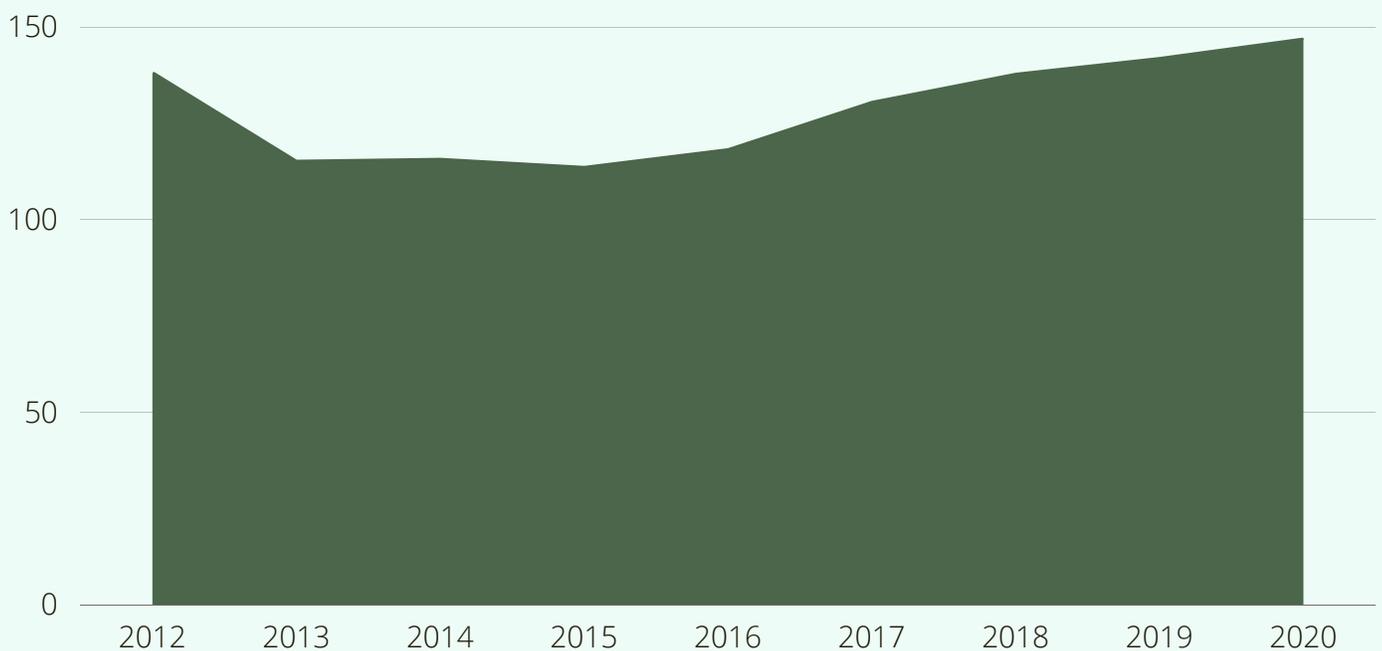
PRO BONO BY THE NUMBERS

Graph Summary

TYPES OF SERVICE PROVIDED



MONETARY VALUE OF SERVICES DONATED IN MILLIONS OF DOLLARS



ANNUAL COMPARISONS

Number of Hours of Service

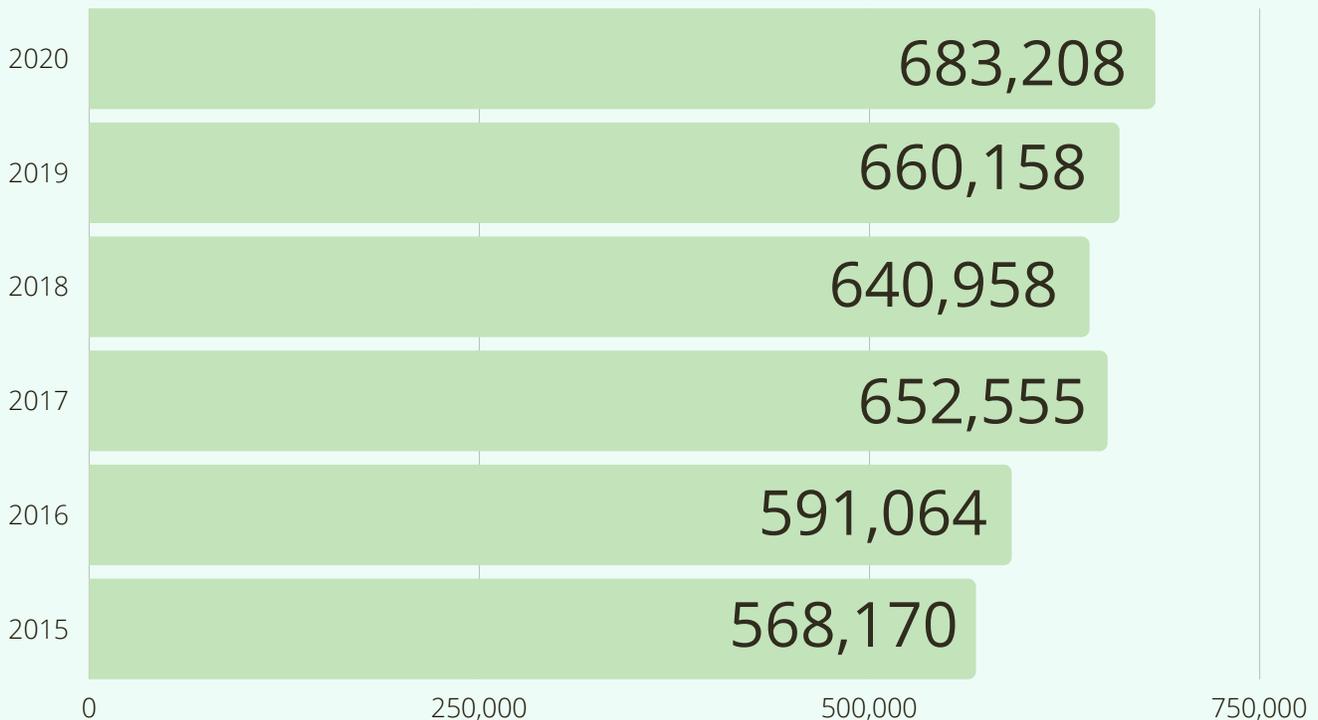
Tennessee Attorneys reported 23,050 more hours of pro bono work in 2020 than they did in 2019. Over the course of the last five years, there has been a steady upward trend in the number of hours reported by Tennessee Attorneys.

For the fourth 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 increased by more than a percentage point from 51.87% in 2019 to 53.2% in 2020.

The chart below shows the number of pro bono hours reported each year by Tennessee Attorneys from 2015 - 2020.

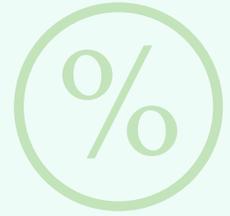
HOURS OF PRO BONO

PROVIDED BY TN ATTORNEYS BETWEEN 2015-2020



TENNESSEE ATTORNEYS

Percentage of TN Attorneys

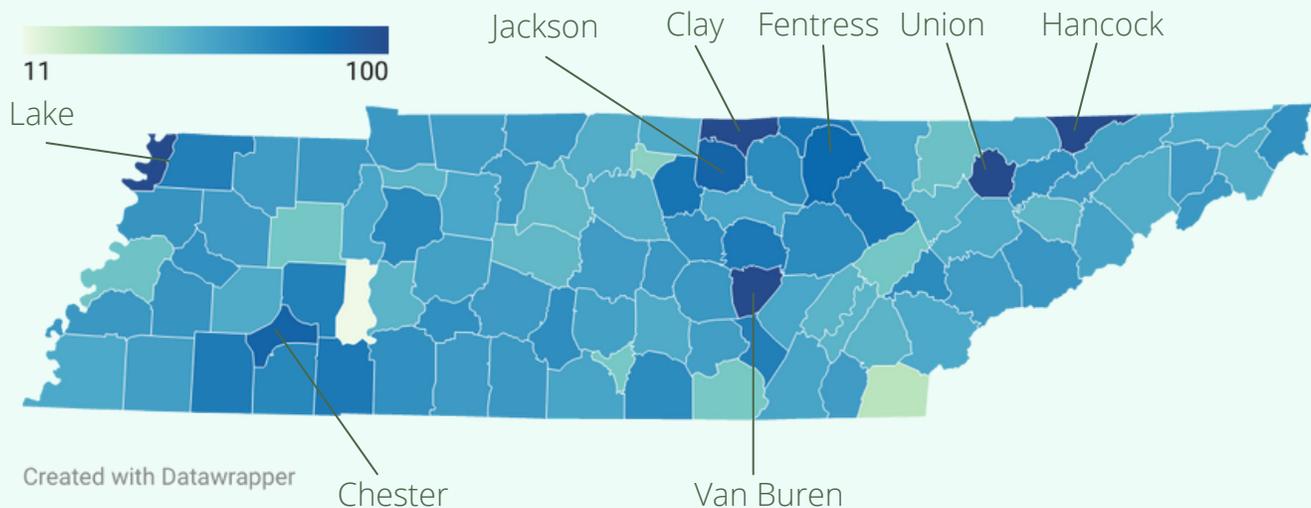


Top Percentage of Tennessee Attorneys Providing Pro Bono: This category includes counties with the highest percentage of Tennessee Attorneys providing pro bono services of the Tennessee Attorneys that reside in the county.

Five Tennessee counties can boast 100% participation in pro bono activities. That honor goes to Clay, Hancock, Lake, Union, and Van Buren counties. Chester, Jackson, and Fentress counties all had participation levels greater than 80%.

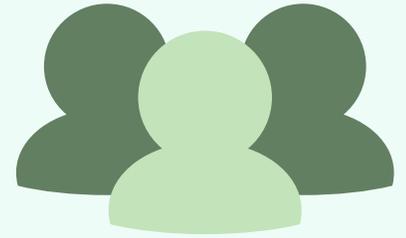
Clay	Hancock	Lake	Union	Van Buren	Chester	Jackson	Fentress
100%	100%	100%	100%	100%	88%	88%	85%

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.



TENNESSEE ATTORNEYS

Per Capita of TN Attorneys

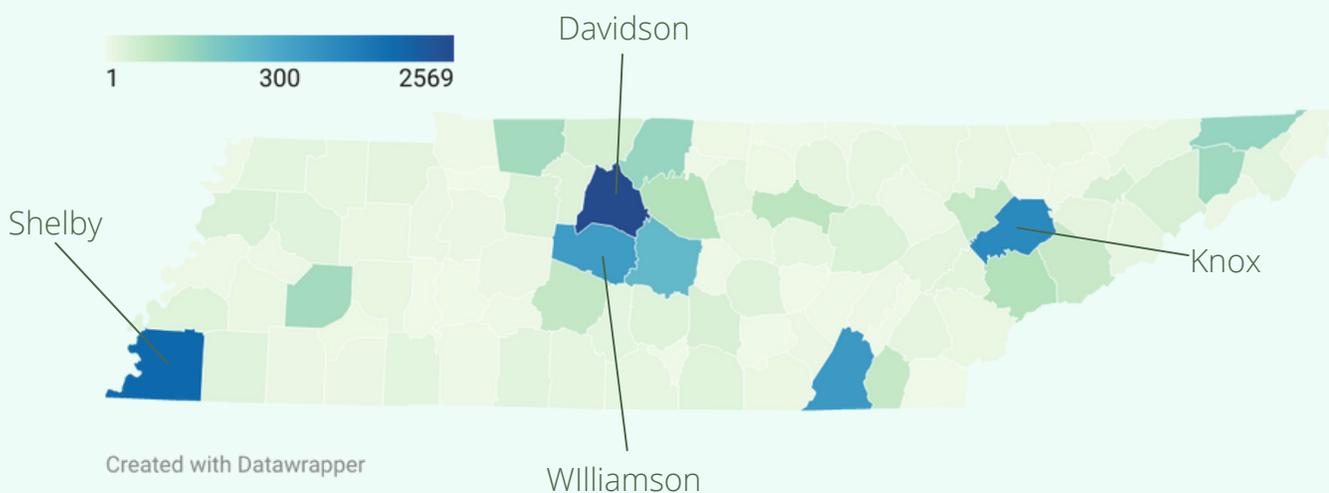


Top Tennessee Attorneys Providing Pro Bono Per Capita: This category includes counties with the highest per capita number of Tennessee Attorneys providing pro bono services.

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

Davidson	Williamson	Knox	Shelby
358.9	242.2	214.8	198.5

The values shown are per 100,000 residents.



TENNESSEE ATTORNEYS

Number of TN Attorneys

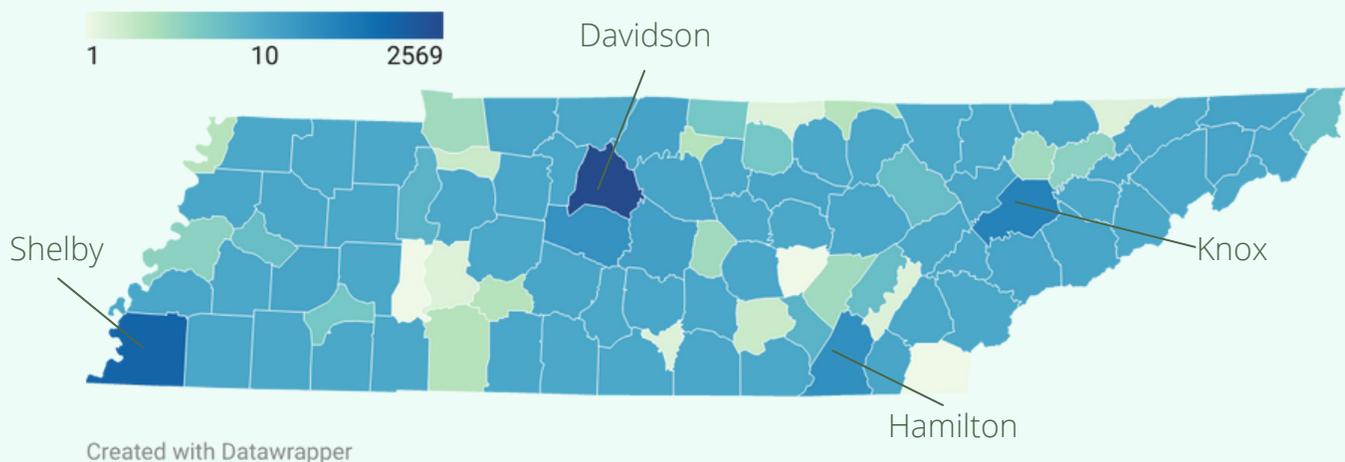


Most Tennessee Attorneys Reporting Pro Bono: This category includes the counties with the greatest number of Tennessee Attorneys who reported pro bono and reported residences in that county.

The counties with the most attorneys reporting pro bono are Davidson, Shelby, Knox, and Hamilton.

Davidson	Shelby	Knox	Hamilton
2569	1846	1029	670

The values shown reflect 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 the top number of Tennessee Attorneys providing pro bono.

Top Percentage of Attorneys Providing Pro Bono	% Attys
Clay	100%
Hancock	100%
Lake	100%
Union	100%
Van Buren	100%
Chester	88%
Jackson	88%
Fentress	85%
Morgan	80%
Pickett	80%
SMITH	80%
WHITE	78%
Hardin	78%
Hardeman	77%
Obion	75%
Sequatchie	75%
Henderson	74%
Humphreys	71%
McNairy	71%
Overton	69%

Top Number of Attorneys Providing Pro Bono Per Capita	# of Attorneys per 100,00 Residents
Davidson	358.857
Williamson	242.203
Knox	214.836
Shelby	198.549
Hamilton	182.957
Madison	132.560
Putnam	111.453
Dyer	105.975
Washington	103.759
Smith	100.482
Sullivan	98.000
Anderson	97.247
Fentress	91.947
Cheatham	80.347
Pickett	79.984
Overton	79.961
Hardin	78.268
Blount	77.617
Sumner	76.931
Maury	76.257

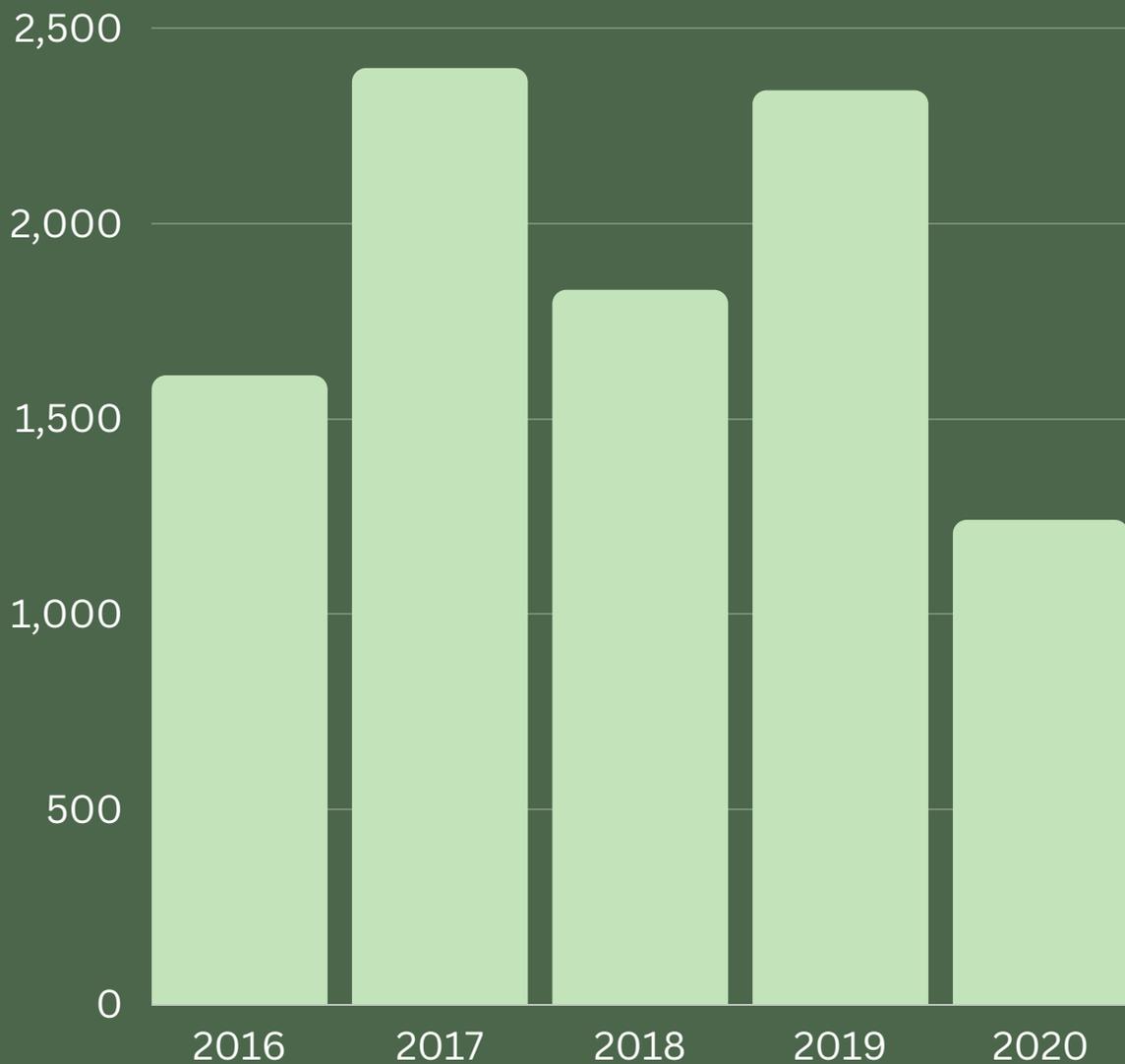
Top Number of Tennessee Attorneys Providing Pro Bono	# of Attorneys
Davidson	2569
Shelby	1846
Knox	1029
Hamilton	670
Williamson	600
Rutherford	248
Sullivan	155
SUMNER	151
Washington	138
Madison	131
Montgomery	131
Blount	105
Wilson	104
Putnam	89
Maury	77
Anderson	75
Bradley	75
Sevier	72
Robertson	47
Hamblen	45

CLE PRO BONO DATA

CLE Commission Data

The Tennessee Continuing Legal Education Commission provides pro bono credit to attorneys providing pro bono services in accordance with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 4.08(c). This rule gives the CLE Commission the power to award CLE credit for pro bono legal services.

The chart below shows the number of pro bono hours reported to the CLE Commission for credit.



CONCLUSION

Thank You

Tennessee Attorneys are a resilient bunch, and it is inspiring to see a persistent increase in commitment to pro bono service amongst this group. Tennessee Attorneys reported more pro bono hours than ever and increased the proportion of Tennessee Attorneys engaged in pro bono efforts.

Tennessee Attorneys have volunteered their time, energy, and expertise to ensure that Tennesseans who can't afford counsel can still seek justice. Volunteer attorneys helped keep Tennesseans in their homes, keep families safe, and helped Tennesseans provide for their families. The work is absolutely invaluable.

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 2020 Pro Bono Report.