



JUSTICE FOR ALL
A Tennessee Supreme Court Initiative

2022

PRO BONO

REPORT

2022 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

Statewide pro bono reporting for 2022. The 2022 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.

PLEASE ADDRESS QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS REPORT TO:

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Data Sourcing

BPR Reporting:

The 2022 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 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 year to the BPR as part of the annual report. This means that pro bono activities reported in 2022 took place during 2021.

The BPR provides that information to the ATJ Commission for the purposes of this report.

In 2022, 10,279 attorneys reported providing pro bono services to the BPR. This report separates those submissions based on the attorneys' primary address.



10,279
Tennessee
Attorneys
reported
providing pro
bono services
to the BPR in
2022.

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 – all attorneys licensed to practice law in Tennessee whose primary address is located in Tennessee.

In keeping with Tennessee Rule of Professional Conduct 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”).

Statistical Highlights

The Impact of attorneys licensed in Tennessee Giving Back

Tennessee Attorneys reported another tremendous year for pro bono work; reporting 645,093 hours of pro bono services reported in 2022.

That means that with 10,279 Tennessee attorneys reporting some level of pro bono services, 62.8 hours were completed on average. Some attorneys have the means to give more and some less, but any level of pro bono services provided carries a huge impact to those in need.

Assuming an average rate of \$215 per hour, that's \$138,694,995 worth of legal services donated to Tennessee communities in a single year.

Tennessee Attorney Pro Bono Numbers

A look at the totals from all TN attorneys that reported some type of pro bono services in 2022.

645,093

Hours of Pro Bono
Services from TN Attorneys

52.2%

TN Attorneys
Providing Pro Bono Services

62.8

Average Pro Bono Hours
Provided by Each Attorney

\$138.7 Million

TN attorneys provided \$138,694,995 million worth of legal services in 2022.
That's 1.39 Billion in legal services provided pro bono since this report started in 2012.

Year Over Year

Reporting Yearly Trends to Track Progress

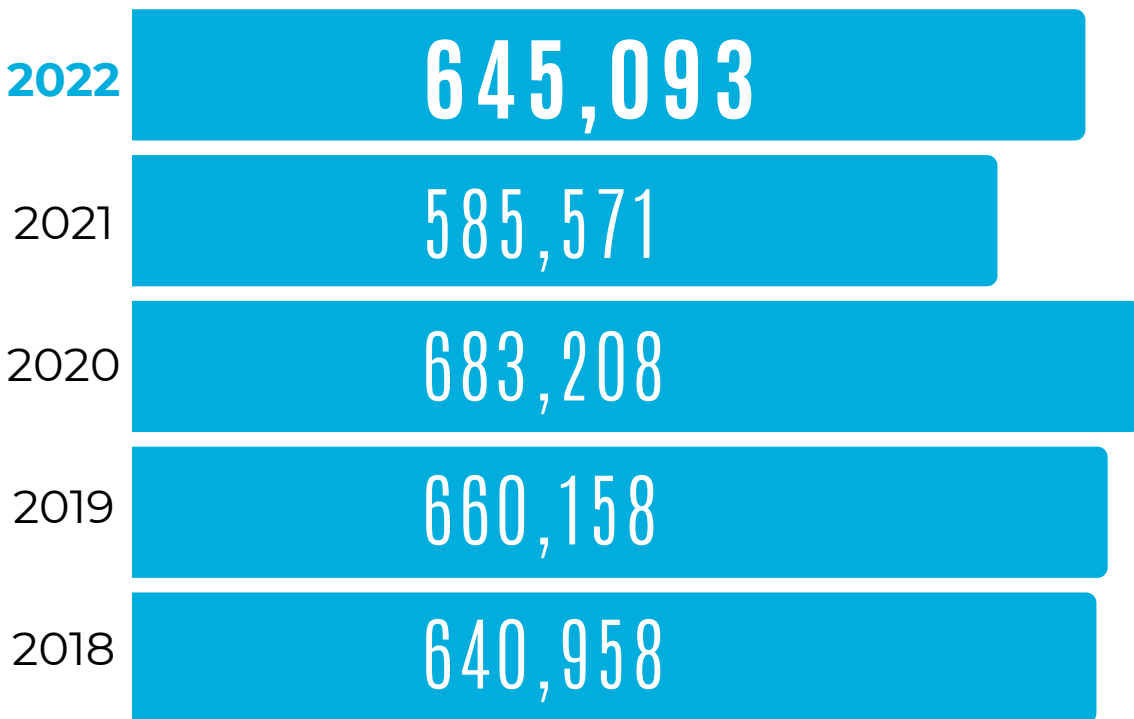
We saw a notable drop in hours of pro bono provided in 2021, likely due to many not having the resources and capabilities to provide pro bono during the lasting impacts of Covid. The spike in 2020 may be attributed to the fact that Covid was novel and early on, attorneys had the resources to provide pro bono services. However, those resources may not have continued to be available as Covid's duration persisted into 2021.

2022 shows a hopeful return to the numbers we've expected over the past 5+ years.

2022 also marks the 6th consecutive year that over 50% of TN Attorneys reported some level of pro bono services.

Yearly Trending

Total number of pro bono hours reported by TN Attorneys over the last 5 years



Types of Pro Bono



Statewide Highlights

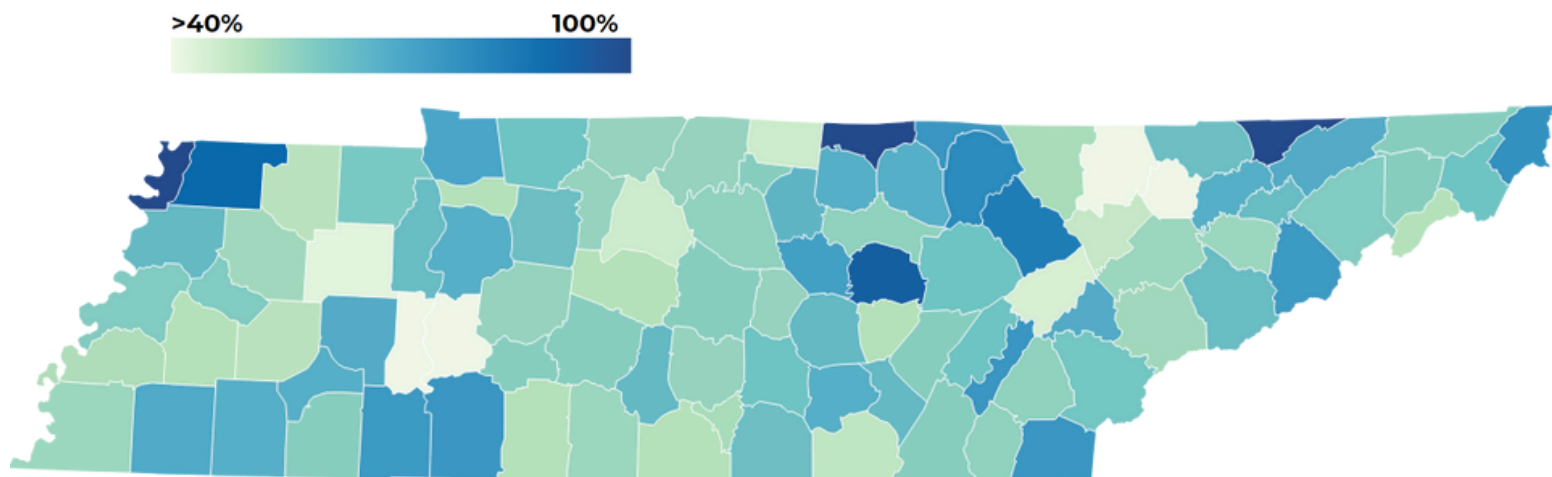
Reporting From Across the State

Almost all counties across the state saw some level of pro bono services reported by a Tennessee attorney. Note that these percentages are based on where the Tennessee attorney lists their primary address; not necessarily where they provided their pro bono services.

As with previous years, we continue to see the highest number of attorneys reporting pro bono services from our most populated counties. However, that does not mean that the greatest percentage of attorneys reporting pro bono stems from our most populated counties. Higher percentages are typically seen from more rural areas.

By County

Percent of Tennessee Attorneys That Reported Pro Bono by County



Top Performing Counties

Percentage of Attorneys by County Reporting Pro Bono Services



CLE Commission Highlights

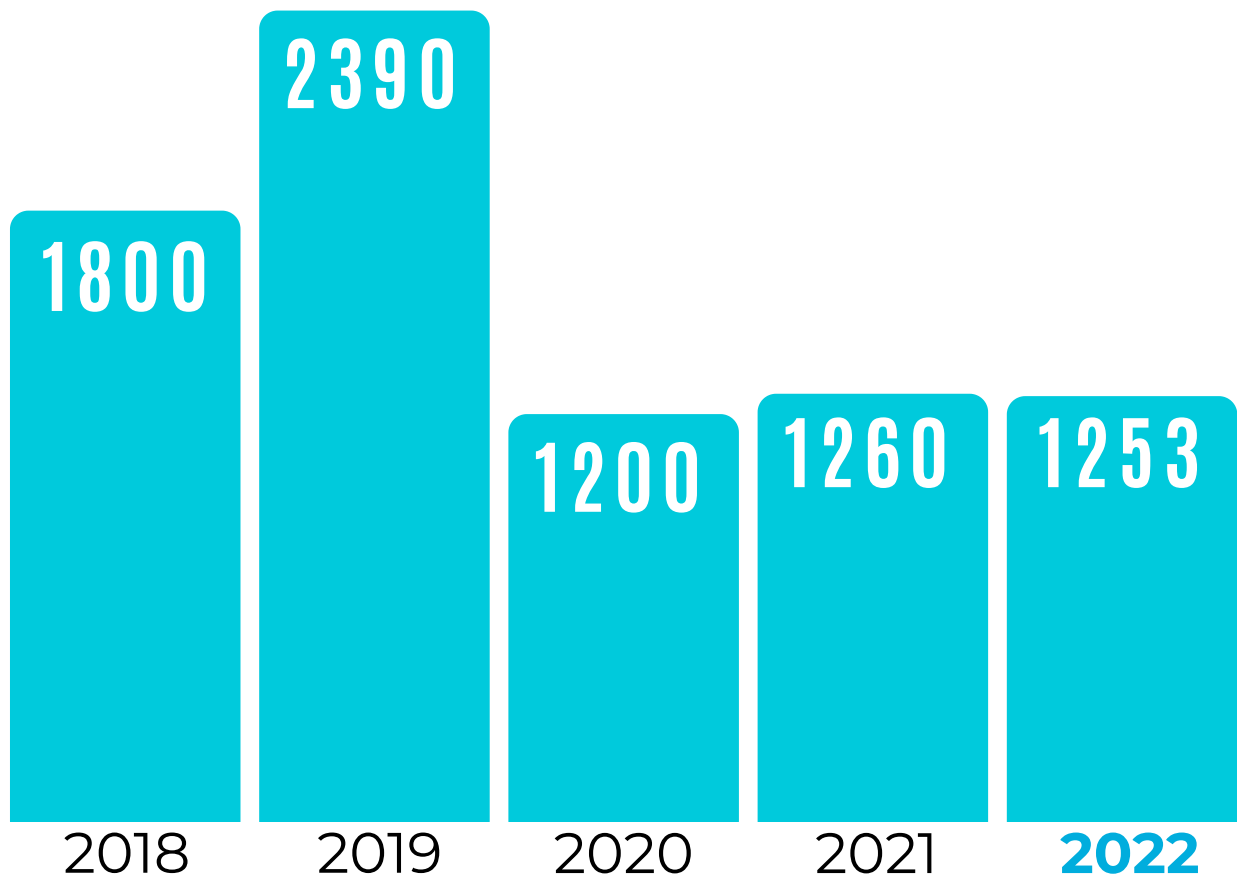
Continuing Legal Education Data from the State

The Tennessee Commission on Continuing Legal Education provides continuing education credit (CLE) 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; an annual maximum of three (3) EP credits earned at the rate of one (1) hour of credit for every five (5) billable hours of pro bono legal work done.

CLE Credit for Pro Bono Work

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



Conclusion

Our state continues to have a need for pro bono services, and our attorneys can and do make a marked impact. From helping individuals directly, to supporting organizations, or spending time helping to improve the law, the numbers show that Tennessee attorneys show up for Tennesseans.

Attorneys have the knowledge and legal resources to make a difference in a life that finds itself in the justice system. And we know that not every person that faces legal issues or concerns has the resources to seek legal expertise. In fact, we know that too many Tennesseans don't have access to legal resources.

Our volunteer attorneys, legal service organizations, law schools, clinical providers, mediation providers, faith-based organizations, bar associations, law firms, and more take the time to give back to their community. Through their pro bono efforts, they create lasting effects not only for that individual or that community, but across the state and farther.

This report seeks to measure part of that impact, and the ATJ Commission continues to proudly celebrate and support pro bono work. The ATJ Commission once again, thanks you for all of your hard work and cooperation in creating the 2022 Pro Bono Report.



**6 Consecutive
Years:**

**Over 50% of TN
Attorneys
reporting pro
bono services.**