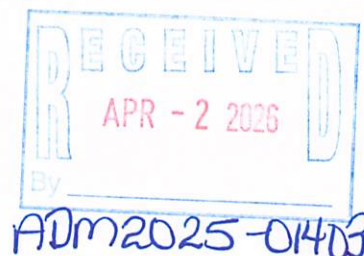


**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403**

**VIA EMAIL**



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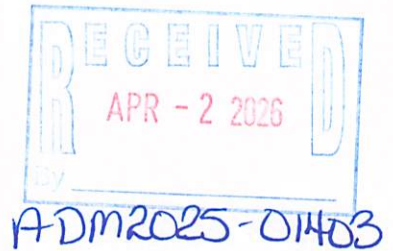
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Michael Silvers  
Michaelsilvers763@gmail.com  
Telford, TN

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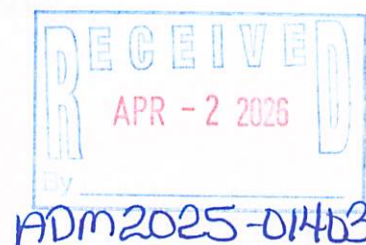
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Vicky Baucom  
iljc333ktf@gmail.com  
Mt. Juliet, TN

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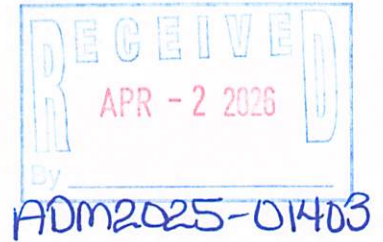
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Tami Kathryn  
tlnmft@gmail.com  
Brentwood, TN

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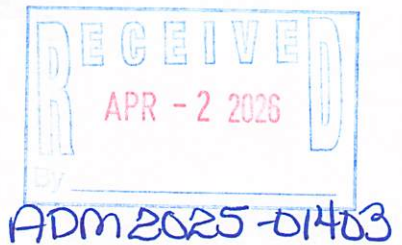
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Sincerely,

Rob Melendez  
topcat217@gmail.com  
Palmyra, TN

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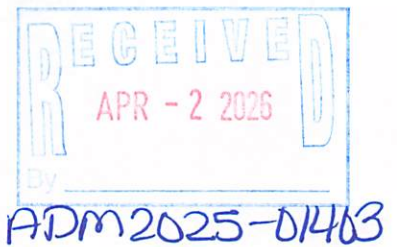
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Sincerely,

April Patterson  
fluffyfluffballs411@gmail.com  
Dresden, TN

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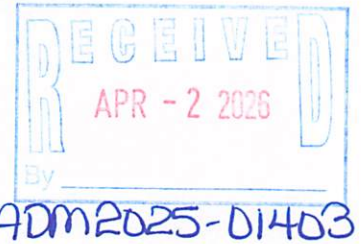
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Sincerely,

Julian Odio  
Julian.odio03@gmail.com  
Nashville, TN

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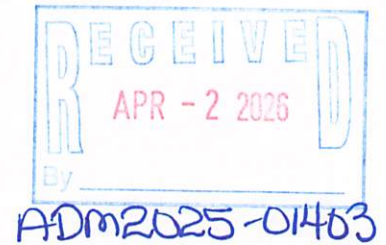
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Dakota Myers  
dakotamyers@ymail.com  
Nashville, TN

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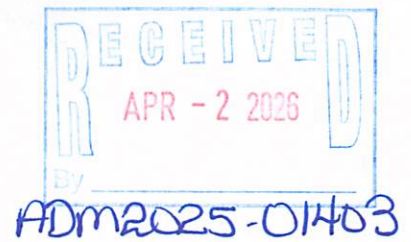
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Andrew Locke  
theandrewlocke@gmail.com  
Madison, TN

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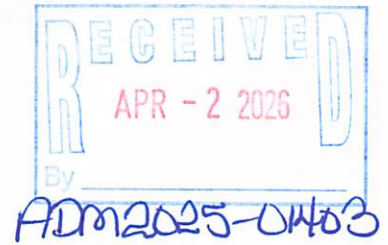
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Gregg Bowman  
firebird71266@gmail.com  
Greeneville, TN

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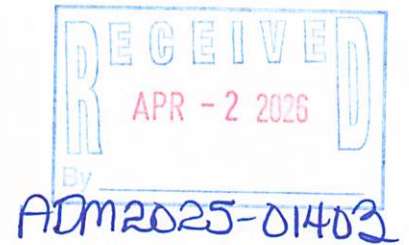
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Carolina Solla  
carolina.a.solla@gmail.com  
Knoxville, TN

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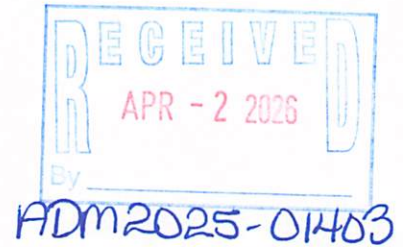
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Sandra Pulse  
msspulse56@gmail.com  
Columbia, TN

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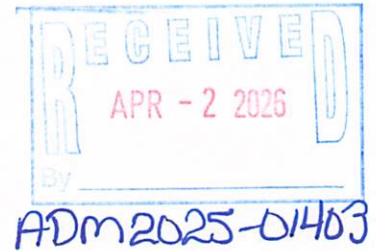
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Trecia Hayes  
treciahayes@gmail.com  
Greeneville, TN

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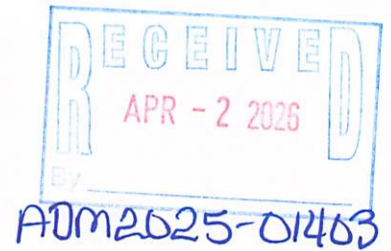
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Denise Prince  
princedenise52@gmail.com  
Huntland, TN

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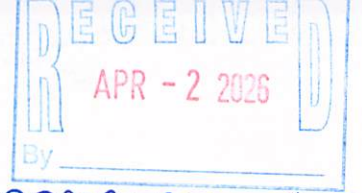
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Allowing legal helpers would put help directly where people need it—in libraries, churches, and community centers—and ensure that people are not shut out of our justice system simply because of where they live or how much money they have.

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Sincerely,

Kevin Beaty  
ygbeaty@bellsouth.net  
Rockwood, TN



**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403**

ADM2025-01403

**VIA EMAIL**

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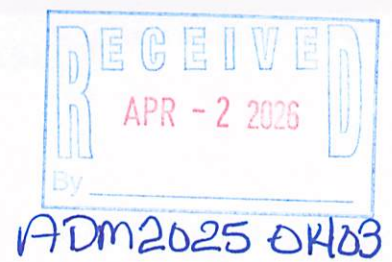
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Sincerely,

Leann Collier  
leanimal@yahoo.com  
La Vergne, TN

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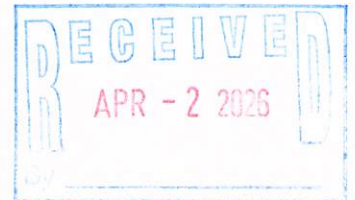
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Sincerely,

Michael Williams  
michael.e.williams@live.mercer.edu  
Berry Hill, TN

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**VIA EMAIL**



ADM2025-01403

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Everyone should have legal representation.

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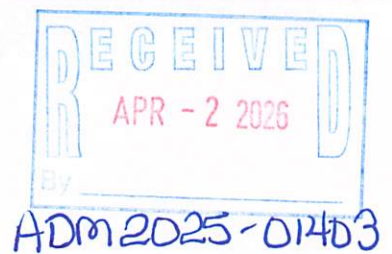
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Sincerely,

Ronald Dayley  
ronald.dayley@yahoo.com  
Clarksville, TN

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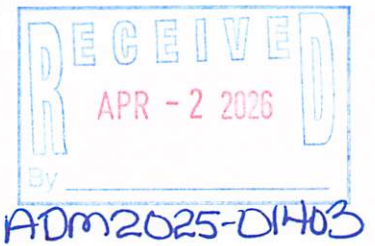
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Sincerely,

Murray Watts  
Mdwatts848@gmail.com  
Clarksville, TN

**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403**

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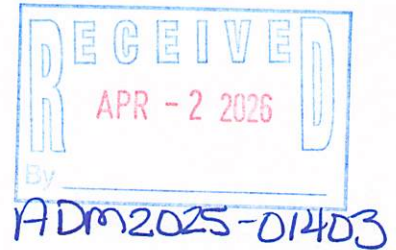
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Sincerely,

Kathy Watts  
kathywatts@bellsouth.net  
Clarksville, TN

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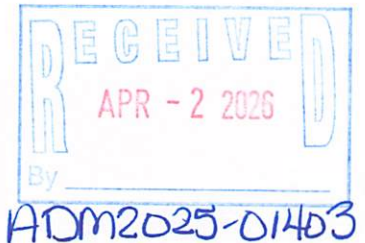
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Tiffany Norbeck  
tiffanynorbeck@yahoo.com  
Clarksville, TN

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Bridging the Gaps: Expanding Legal Help and Elevating Lived Expertise to Prevent Homelessness in Tennessee Every day, Tennesseans face civil legal issues involving housing, family law, debt, benefits, and more — yet most cannot afford a lawyer. In many communities, especially rural areas, there simply aren't enough lawyers to go around. People are left to navigate judges, attorneys, and complicated legal processes alone. The Tennessee Supreme Court has acknowledged this crisis and is asking the public for ideas to make legal help easier to access. One solution is clear: Tennessee must allow trained Peer to Peer legal helpers, especially those whom have survived these systems so brutally without law degrees to assist with basic civil legal needs. With short, accessible training, these helpers could support people with common, low-risk issues such as filling out forms, understanding court procedures, and preparing for hearings. They could offer help through trusted community spaces libraries, nonprofits, churches, and community centers bringing support closer to home instead of creating new barriers. This approach is not only practical; it is essential. Civil legal issues, especially evictions, are one of the fastest pathways into homelessness. Prevention is only possible when people have timely, affordable help. Without it, families fall through gaps that should never exist. And this is where Tennessee's homelessness response system reveals another truth: Peer-to-peer support and lived expertise are the missing capacity our state has never fully recognized or compensated. Those who have experienced homelessness firsthand carry insights that illuminate the real barriers in our systems — barriers that data alone cannot capture. As the HUD Nashville-Davidson County Continuum of Care (CoC) strategic plan emphasizes, individuals with lived experience must be fully integrated into decision-making, leadership, and system design. True progress cannot happen while structural, procedural, or cultural barriers keep them from shaping solutions. By prioritizing inclusion, equity, and direct engagement, Tennessee can build a justice and homelessness response system guided by the people who understand it best. This means: - Investing in eviction prevention through accessible legal help - Funding real Meaning accessible like criminal rights to counsel, Eviction Right to Counsel - Paying lived-expertise leaders as essential contributors and co author's - Embedding peer-to-peer support into every stage of the system - Removing procedural roadblocks that silence the voices of those most affected Homelessness in Nashville is a reality we cannot ignore, with more than 3,400 individuals families with children single male fathers currently unhoused. Rising living costs, limited affordable housing, and gaps in support systems all contribute to this crisis. But when people lose their housing because they had no legal help, no advocate because we're unpaid we exist now, and no guide that is a preventable failure. By addressing these issues with honesty and urgency, we create space for healing and real change. Through community-driven efforts, policy advocacy, and compassionate action, we can build

remedies that restore trust, dignity, and stability. The path forward is clear: Tennessee must expand access to civil legal help and elevate lived expertise as a cornerstone of homelessness prevention. These two efforts are not separate they are inseparable. Today, we call on the Tennessee Supreme Court, policymakers, service providers, and community members to take action. Let us build a system where justice is accessible, homelessness is preventable, and the people who know the system best are leading the way. Urging the Court to act. Together, we can create a more compassionate, practical, and effective system of care for all Tennesseans.

I urge the Court to focus on low-barrier approaches that expand access to basic help now. Authorized legal helpers could receive short, modular, and accessible subject-matter training, and work under the supervision of non-profits, libraries, community and religious centers, and legal businesses. Licensure that requires extensive training or costly credentialing risks recreating the lawyer-only bottleneck under a different name, while there are countless routine, low-risk legal needs that could be met today by a neighbor who has undergone a short online course.

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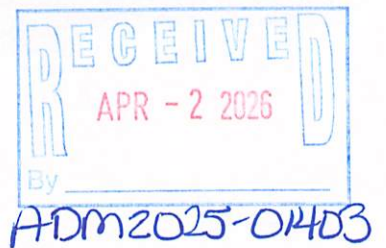
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Sincerely,

Kennetha Patterson  
visionheirsinc2011@outlook.com  
Nashville, TN

**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403**



**VIA EMAIL**

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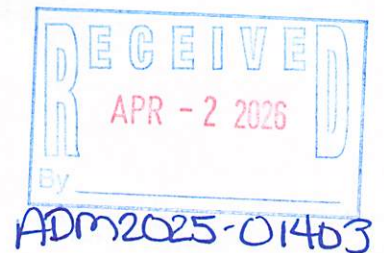
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Sincerely,

Linda Zelnik  
Benthall.zelnik@gmail.com  
Nashville, TN

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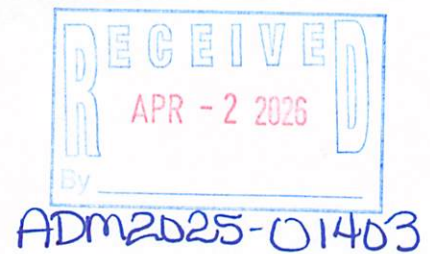
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Sincerely,

Louanne Parker  
lparker1214@gmail.com  
Taft, TN

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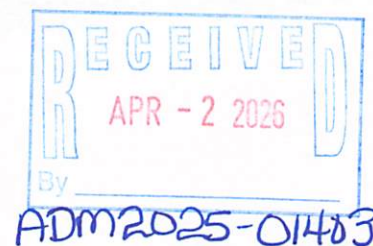
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Sincerely,

William Henry  
primethottimus217@gmail.com  
Cleveland, TN

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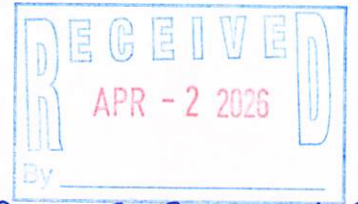
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Sincerely,

Shannon Haddon  
Smh0685@gmail.com  
Winchester, TN

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ADM 12025-01403

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Allowing legal helpers would put help directly where people need it—in libraries, churches, and community centers—and ensure that people are not shut out of our justice system simply because of where they live or how much money they have.

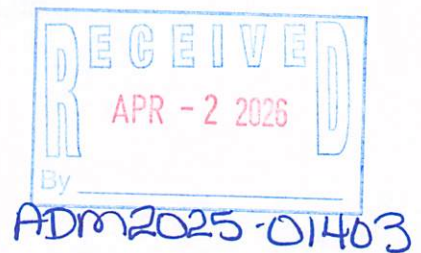
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Sincerely,

Shannon Merritt  
Smerrittmpd@yahoo.com  
Memphis, TN

**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403**

**VIA EMAIL**



Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue. Across our state, people struggle to access the legal assistance they need; lawyers are too expensive for most people, and many counties are classified as legal deserts because there just aren't enough lawyers to go around.

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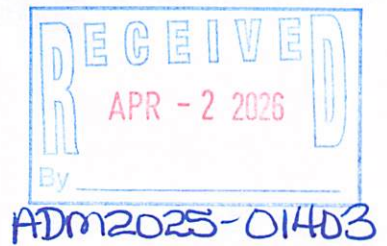
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Sincerely,

Deborah Brawner  
debbrawler@att.net  
Nashville, TN

**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403**



**VIA EMAIL**

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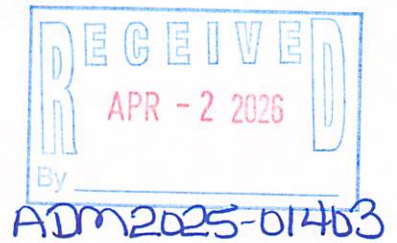
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Sincerely,

Brittany Evans  
Brittany@theshelterinc.com  
Lawrenceburg, TN

**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403**

**VIA EMAIL**



Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

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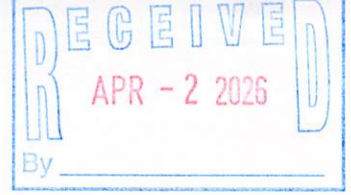
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Sincerely,

Emily Austin  
epaustin116@gmail.com  
Memphis, TN



**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403 from Nashville Resident**

ADM2025-01403

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis. I strongly endorse the Court's suggestion that people without law degrees could deliver legal services and support authorizing legal helpers to assist with basic civil legal needs. This is a smart, compassionate, and practical way to make justice more accessible.

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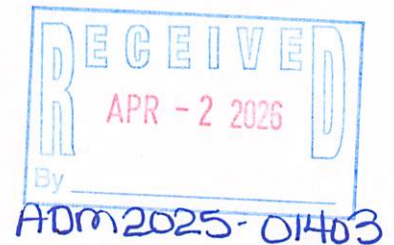
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Sincerely,

Timothy Phillip  
Nashville, TN  
timphillip.68@hotmail.com

**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403**

VIA EMAIL



Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

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I am writing to formally request the allocation of federal funding to support the establishment of salaried, non-attorney legal representative positions within the Memphis community. This request is driven by a critical gap in our local support system that prevents individuals with severe health issues from accessing the federal disability benefits they are entitled to.

#### Professional Background and Expertise

With a decade of specialized experience in Social Security Disability, I have seen firsthand the complexities of the application process. My background includes: Legal Assistant (6 years): Working within a high-volume Memphis attorneys office, managing medical record development and case files. Disability Advocate (4 years): Directly assisting individuals through every stage of the process, including Initial Claims, Reconsiderations, and Hearings. I have a proven track record of drafting comprehensive hearing briefs for Administrative Law Judges (ALJs), which frequently result in "On-the-Record" approvals, saving the government the time and expense of a formal hearing.

#### The Current Challenge

In Memphis, many individuals are involuntarily unable to work due to chronic, mental illness or severe accidents. Currently, the system for representation is flawed for the most vulnerable: Financial Barriers for Advocates: The requirement to travel to Baltimore, Maryland, for testing and the associated lodging costs are significant hurdles for non-attorney representatives.

Inconsistent Compensation: Relying on a contingency fee paid by the claimant is often unsustainable. It is difficult for low-income claimants to manage these payments, and advocates often face challenges in receiving funds even after a successful approval.

The Representation Gap: Because of these financial risks, many private firms decline cases for the very individuals who need help most, those with high barriers to stability.

Proposed Solution: The Salaried Advocate Model I am proposing that federal funds be released to a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization, specifically one aligned with workforce development and basic necessity needs, to fund a salaried Disability Advocate position. This model offers several advantages: Early Intervention: Providing expert assistance at the Initial Claim and Reconsideration

levels reduces the massive backlog at the Hearing level. Equity of Access: By providing a salaried expert, we ensure that a claimants ability to navigate the system is not dependent on their ability to pay a fee. Systemic Efficiency: Professionalizing the initial application process ensures that the Social Security Administration receives fully developed, accurate files from day one.

### Closing

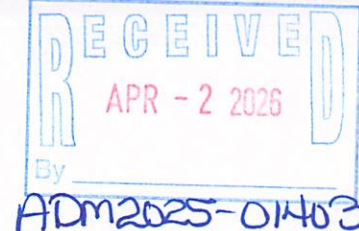
The need for this service in Memphis is severe. Transitioning disability advocacy from a fee-contingent model to a community-based, salaried model will provide the "grit" and technical expertise required to bridge the gap between medical necessity and financial stability. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss how we can implement this pilot program to better serve our community. Thank you for your time and consideration of this vital request.

Sherhunda Gentry

Zip code: 38002

sherhundagentry@gmail.com

**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403**



VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis. I strongly endorse the Court's suggestion that people without law degrees could deliver legal services and support authorizing legal helpers to assist with basic civil legal needs. This is a smart, compassionate, and practical way to make justice more accessible.

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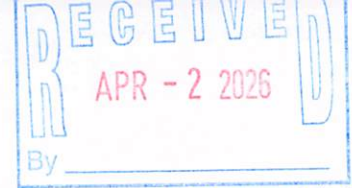
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Sincerely,

Cindy Karth  
Memphis, TN  
cindykrutzher37@gmail.com



**From Case Counselor at The Hospitality Hub: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403** ADM2025-0403

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

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I am a case counselor at The Hospitality Hub. In my community, expanding access to legal help is important because it has become unaffordable for the community, especially people experiencing homelessness. I would want legal helpers to have oversight by a nonprofit or a company, and I would want legal helpers to be able to assist with debt collection, employment and workplace law, housing, and domestic violence and protective orders.

Across our state, people struggle to access the legal assistance they need; lawyers are too expensive for most people, and many counties are classified as legal deserts because there just aren't enough lawyers to go around.

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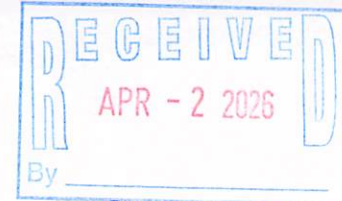
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Sincerely,

Mykala Nunley  
Memphis, TN  
mykalanunley@yahoo.com



Director of Advocacy for BLDG Memphis - Comments on No. ADM2025-01403 ADM2025-01403

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

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I am the director of advocacy for BLDG Memphis. Expanding access to legal help is important because it strengthens community ownership through drafting wills, heirs property, title clearing, and small estate planning. I would want legal helpers to have oversight by a nonprofit or company, subject-matter training that can be done online in under 10 hours, and reporting standards and metrics. I would want legal helpers to be able to assist with any legal matter.

Across our state, people struggle to access the legal assistance they need; lawyers are too expensive for most people, and many counties are classified as legal deserts because there just aren't enough lawyers to go around.

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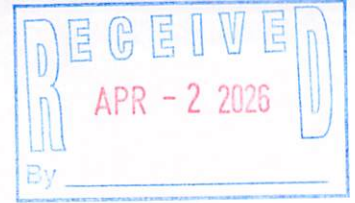
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Sincerely,

Jonathan Mosley  
Memphis, TN  
jonathan@bldgmemphis.org



**Expand Legal Help: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403 from volunteer with Memphis Shelby County Juvenile Court CASA**

ADM2025-01403

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis. I strongly endorse the Court's suggestion that people without law degrees could deliver legal services and support authorizing legal helpers to assist with basic civil legal needs. This is a smart, compassionate, and practical way to make justice more accessible.

I am affiliated with the University of Memphis and a volunteer with the Memphis & Shelby County Juvenile Court CASA. In my community, expanding access to legal help is important because many people cannot hire an attorney to help with small legal issues. I would want legal helpers to have oversight by a nonprofit or company, and subject-matter training that can be done online in under 10 hours. I would want them to be able to assist with any civil legal matter.

Across our state, people struggle to access the legal assistance they need; lawyers are too expensive for most people, and many counties are classified as legal deserts because there just aren't enough lawyers to go around.

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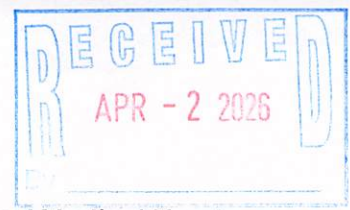
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Sincerely,

Cecilia Cox  
Memphis, TN  
clcox7@memphis.edu



**Expand Legal Help: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403 from Customized Medical Needs**

ADM2025-01403

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis. I strongly endorse the Court's suggestion that people without law degrees could deliver legal services and support authorizing legal helpers to assist with basic civil legal needs. This is a smart, compassionate, and practical way to make justice more accessible.

I am with Customized Medical Needs/Customized Veterans Group. Expanding access to legal help is important because many of the individuals that I serve are affected by recidivism due to the fact that they can't afford legal resources. I would want legal helpers to have subject-matter training that can be done online in under 10 hours, and oversight by a nonprofit or company. I would want legal helpers to be able to assist with any civil legal matter.

Across our state, people struggle to access the legal assistance they need; lawyers are too expensive for most people, and many counties are classified as legal deserts because there just aren't enough lawyers to go around.

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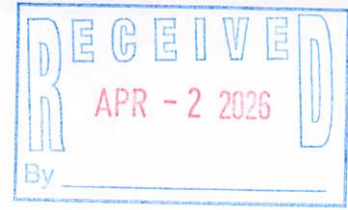
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Sincerely,

Christi Davidson  
Memphis, TN  
christi@customizedmedicalneeds.com



**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403 from GROWWTH - Univ of Memphis**  
ADM2025-01403

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis.

I am with GROWWTH (Growing Relational and Occupational Wealth in West Tennessee Households) - University of Memphis. I strongly endorse the Court's suggestion that people without law degrees could deliver legal services and support authorizing legal helpers to assist with basic civil legal needs. This is a smart, compassionate, and practical way to make justice more accessible.

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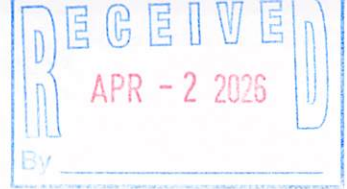
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Sincerely,

Anthony Scherrod  
Memphis, TN  
scherrod@memphis.edu



**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403 from U. of Memphis Staff**

ADM2025-01403

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis. I strongly endorse the Court's suggestion that people without law degrees could deliver legal services and support authorizing legal helpers to assist with basic civil legal needs. This is a smart, compassionate, and practical way to make justice more accessible.

I am with the University of Memphis. I would want legal helpers to have oversight by a nonprofit or company, and subject-matter training that can be done online in under 10 hours. I would want legal helpers to be able to assist with any civil legal matter.

Across our state, people struggle to access the legal assistance they need; lawyers are too expensive for most people, and many counties are classified as legal deserts because there just aren't enough lawyers to go around.

I urge the Court to focus on low-barrier approaches that expand access to basic help now. Authorized legal helpers could receive short, modular, and accessible subject-matter training, and work under the supervision of non-profits, libraries, community and religious centers, and legal businesses. Licensure that requires extensive training or costly credentialing risks recreating the lawyer-only bottleneck under a different name, while there are countless routine, low-risk legal needs that could be met today by a neighbor who has undergone a short online course.

The Court should also consider clear carveouts from Unauthorized Practice of Law rules for low-risk legal assistance, like helping individuals understand court processes and filling out paperwork, which should not be treated as the practice of law. Tennesseans who would receive this help are already protected by existing consumer protection laws, negating the need for the enforcement mechanism that comes with licensure.

Allowing legal helpers would put help directly where people need it—in libraries, churches, and community centers—and ensure that people are not shut out of our justice system simply because of where they live or how much money they have.

I'm grateful that the Tennessee Supreme Court is leading this effort to reform and modernize our legal system. I encourage you to authorize the delivery of legal services by legal helpers and continue exploring ways to ensure that every Tennessean can get the legal guidance they need, when and where they need it. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue.

Sincerely,

James Cottrell  
Memphis, TN  
jctrll1@memphis.edu



**2Unique Community Salvation Foundation Comments on No. ADM2025-01403**

ADM2025-01403

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis. I strongly endorse the Court's suggestion that people without law degrees could deliver legal services and support authorizing legal helpers to assist with basic civil legal needs. This is a smart, compassionate, and practical way to make justice more accessible.

I am with the 2Unique Community Salvation Foundation. Expanding access to legal help is important because it would provide resources at a grassroots level. I would want legal helpers to have oversight by a nonprofit or company, and subject-matter training that can be done online in under 10 hours. I would want legal helpers to be able to assist with debt collection, family law, employment and workplace law, small claims and money disputes, housing, domestic violence and protective orders, public benefits and assistance, and reentry and civil legal consequences.

Across our state, people struggle to access the legal assistance they need; lawyers are too expensive for most people, and many counties are classified as legal deserts because there just aren't enough lawyers to go around.

I urge the Court to focus on low-barrier approaches that expand access to basic help now. Authorized legal helpers could receive short, modular, and accessible subject-matter training, and work under the supervision of non-profits, libraries, community and religious centers, and legal businesses. Licensure that requires extensive training or costly credentialing risks recreating the lawyer-only bottleneck under a different name, while there are countless routine, low-risk legal needs that could be met today by a neighbor who has undergone a short online course.

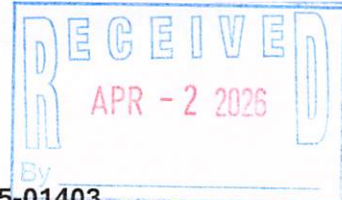
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Allowing legal helpers would put help directly where people need it—in libraries, churches, and community centers—and ensure that people are not shut out of our justice system simply because of where they live or how much money they have.

I'm grateful that the Tennessee Supreme Court is leading this effort to reform and modernize our legal system. I encourage you to authorize the delivery of legal services by legal helpers and continue exploring ways to ensure that every Tennessean can get the legal guidance they need, when and where they need it. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Roshunda Buchanan  
Cordova, TN  
rbuchanan@2unique-csf.org



From Black Clergy Collaborative of Memphis: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403

ADM2025-01403

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court’s request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee’s access-to-justice crisis. I strongly endorse the Court’s suggestion that people without law degrees could deliver legal services and support authorizing legal helpers to assist with basic civil legal needs. This is a smart, compassionate, and practical way to make justice more accessible.

I am with the Black Clergy Collaborative of Memphis, and in my community, expanding access to legal help is important because people can't afford attorneys for evictions, clearing titles, wills, and trust. I would want legal helpers to have oversight by a nonprofit or company, and subject-matter training that can be done online in under 10 hours. I would want legal helpers to be able to assist with debt collection, employment and workplace law, small claims and money disputes, housing, domestic violence and protective orders, public benefits and assistance, and reentry and civil legal consequences.

Across our state, people struggle to access the legal assistance they need; lawyers are too expensive for most people, and many counties are classified as legal deserts because there just aren't enough lawyers to go around.

I urge the Court to focus on low-barrier approaches that expand access to basic help now. Authorized legal helpers could receive short, modular, and accessible subject-matter training, and work under the supervision of non-profits, libraries, community and religious centers, and legal businesses. Licensure that requires extensive training or costly credentialing risks recreating the lawyer-only bottleneck under a different name, while there are countless routine, low-risk legal needs that could be met today by a neighbor who has undergone a short online course.

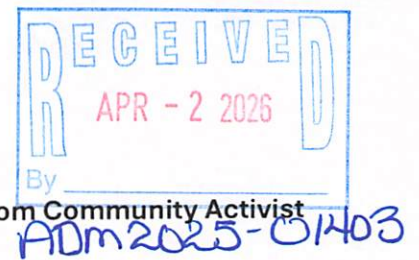
The Court should also consider clear carveouts from Unauthorized Practice of Law rules for low-risk legal assistance, like helping individuals understand court processes and filling out paperwork, which should not be treated as the practice of law. Tennesseans who would receive this help are already protected by existing consumer protection laws, negating the need for the enforcement mechanism that comes with licensure.

Allowing legal helpers would put help directly where people need it—in libraries, churches, and community centers—and ensure that people are not shut out of our justice system simply because of where they live or how much money they have.

I’m grateful that the Tennessee Supreme Court is leading this effort to reform and modernize our legal system. I encourage you to authorize the delivery of legal services by legal helpers and continue exploring ways to ensure that every Tennessean can get the legal guidance they need, when and where they need it. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Shirley Bondon  
Memphis, TN



**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403 from Community Activist**

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis. I strongly endorse the Court's suggestion that people without law degrees could deliver legal services and support authorizing legal helpers to assist with basic civil legal needs. This is a smart, compassionate, and practical way to make justice more accessible.

I am a community activist and concerned citizen. In my community, expanding access to legal help is important because most people without legal knowledge don't know the procedures to follow to start the case/complaint. I would want legal helpers to have any tools necessary for a successful outcome, including oversight by a nonprofit or company. I would want legal helpers to be able to assist with any civil legal matter.

Across our state, people struggle to access the legal assistance they need; lawyers are too expensive for most people, and many counties are classified as legal deserts because there just aren't enough lawyers to go around.

I urge the Court to focus on low-barrier approaches that expand access to basic help now. Authorized legal helpers could receive short, modular, and accessible subject-matter training, and work under the supervision of non-profits, libraries, community and religious centers, and legal businesses. Licensure that requires extensive training or costly credentialing risks recreating the lawyer-only bottleneck under a different name, while there are countless routine, low-risk legal needs that could be met today by a neighbor who has undergone a short online course.

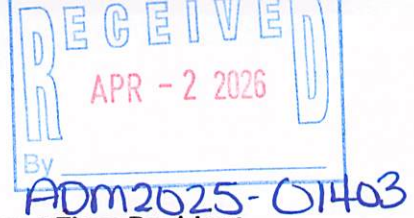
The Court should also consider clear carveouts from Unauthorized Practice of Law rules for low-risk legal assistance, like helping individuals understand court processes and filling out paperwork, which should not be treated as the practice of law. Tennesseans who would receive this help are already protected by existing consumer protection laws, negating the need for the enforcement mechanism that comes with licensure.

Allowing legal helpers would put help directly where people need it—in libraries, churches, and community centers—and ensure that people are not shut out of our justice system simply because of where they live or how much money they have.

I'm grateful that the Tennessee Supreme Court is leading this effort to reform and modernize our legal system. I encourage you to authorize the delivery of legal services by legal helpers and continue exploring ways to ensure that every Tennessean can get the legal guidance they need, when and where they need it. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Barbara Thomas  
Memphis, TN  
barbratom48@yahoo.com



**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403 from Long-Time Resident**

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis. I strongly endorse the Court's suggestion that people without law degrees could deliver legal services and support authorizing legal helpers to assist with basic civil legal needs. This is a smart, compassionate, and practical way to make justice more accessible.

In my community, expanding access to legal help is important because most people do not have the resources to afford all legal situations. I would want legal helpers to have an apprenticeship program, and I would want them to be able to assist with any civil legal matter.

Across our state, people struggle to access the legal assistance they need; lawyers are too expensive for most people, and many counties are classified as legal deserts because there just aren't enough lawyers to go around.

I urge the Court to focus on low-barrier approaches that expand access to basic help now. Authorized legal helpers could receive short, modular, and accessible subject-matter training, and work under the supervision of non-profits, libraries, community and religious centers, and legal businesses. Licensure that requires extensive training or costly credentialing risks recreating the lawyer-only bottleneck under a different name, while there are countless routine, low-risk legal needs that could be met today by a neighbor who has undergone a short online course.

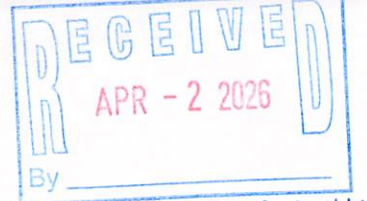
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Allowing legal helpers would put help directly where people need it—in libraries, churches, and community centers—and ensure that people are not shut out of our justice system simply because of where they live or how much money they have.

I'm grateful that the Tennessee Supreme Court is leading this effort to reform and modernize our legal system. I encourage you to authorize the delivery of legal services by legal helpers and continue exploring ways to ensure that every Tennessean can get the legal guidance they need, when and where they need it. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Chrystal Baker  
Arlington, TN  
chrystalmbaker@gmail.com



From Tennessee Prison Outreach Ministry: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403

ADM2025-01403

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis. I strongly endorse the Court's suggestion that people without law degrees could deliver legal services and support authorizing legal helpers to assist with basic civil legal needs. This is a smart, compassionate, and practical way to make justice more accessible.

I am with the Tennessee Prison Outreach Ministry. We need help for the residents in our transition houses. I would want legal helpers to be able to assist with any civil legal matter. Across our state, people struggle to access the legal assistance they need; lawyers are too expensive for most people, and many counties are classified as legal deserts because there just aren't enough lawyers to go around.

I urge the Court to focus on low-barrier approaches that expand access to basic help now. Authorized legal helpers could receive short, modular, and accessible subject-matter training, and work under the supervision of non-profits, libraries, community and religious centers, and legal businesses. Licensure that requires extensive training or costly credentialing risks recreating the lawyer-only bottleneck under a different name, while there are countless routine, low-risk legal needs that could be met today by a neighbor who has undergone a short online course.

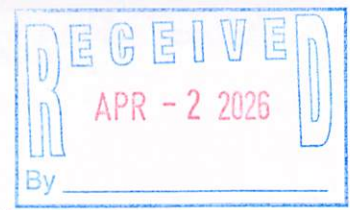
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Allowing legal helpers would put help directly where people need it—in libraries, churches, and community centers—and ensure that people are not shut out of our justice system simply because of where they live or how much money they have.

I'm grateful that the Tennessee Supreme Court is leading this effort to reform and modernize our legal system. I encourage you to authorize the delivery of legal services by legal helpers and continue exploring ways to ensure that every Tennessean can get the legal guidance they need, when and where they need it. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Michelle Kevorkian  
Nashville, TN  
mkevorkian@tpom.org



**From Child Advocacy Center for 23rd District: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403**

ADM2025-01403

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis. I strongly endorse the Court's suggestion that people without law degrees could deliver legal services and support authorizing legal helpers to assist with basic civil legal needs. This is a smart, compassionate, and practical way to make justice more accessible.

I am with the CAC 23rd District. Expanding access to legal help is important because there is not a legal aid close to any CAC in the 23rd District. I would want legal helpers to be able to assist with debt collection, family law, employment and workplace law, small claims and money disputes, housing, domestic violence and protective orders, public benefits and assistance, and reentry and civil legal consequences.

Across our state, people struggle to access the legal assistance they need; lawyers are too expensive for most people, and many counties are classified as legal deserts because there just aren't enough lawyers to go around.

I urge the Court to focus on low-barrier approaches that expand access to basic help now. Authorized legal helpers could receive short, modular, and accessible subject-matter training, and work under the supervision of non-profits, libraries, community and religious centers, and legal businesses. Licensure that requires extensive training or costly credentialing risks recreating the lawyer-only bottleneck under a different name, while there are countless routine, low-risk legal needs that could be met today by a neighbor who has undergone a short online course.

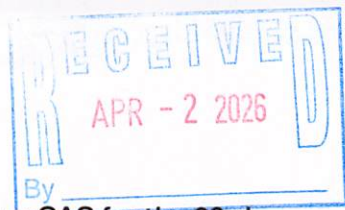
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Allowing legal helpers would put help directly where people need it—in libraries, churches, and community centers—and ensure that people are not shut out of our justice system simply because of where they live or how much money they have.

I'm grateful that the Tennessee Supreme Court is leading this effort to reform and modernize our legal system. I encourage you to authorize the delivery of legal services by legal helpers and continue exploring ways to ensure that every Tennessean can get the legal guidance they need, when and where they need it. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jessica Tigert  
Charlotte, TN  
jtigert@23rdCAC.org



**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403 from CAC for the 23rd District**

By  
ADM2025-01403

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis. I strongly endorse the Court's suggestion that people without law degrees could deliver legal services and support authorizing legal helpers to assist with basic civil legal needs. This is a smart, compassionate, and practical way to make justice more accessible.

I am with the Child Advocacy Center for the 23rd Judicial District. I would want legal helpers to be able to assist with debt collection, family law, employment and workplace law, small claims and money disputes, housing, domestic violence and protective orders, public benefits and assistance, and reentry and civil legal consequences.

Across our state, people struggle to access the legal assistance they need; lawyers are too expensive for most people, and many counties are classified as legal deserts because there just aren't enough lawyers to go around.

I urge the Court to focus on low-barrier approaches that expand access to basic help now. Authorized legal helpers could receive short, modular, and accessible subject-matter training, and work under the supervision of non-profits, libraries, community and religious centers, and legal businesses. Licensure that requires extensive training or costly credentialing risks recreating the lawyer-only bottleneck under a different name, while there are countless routine, low-risk legal needs that could be met today by a neighbor who has undergone a short online course.

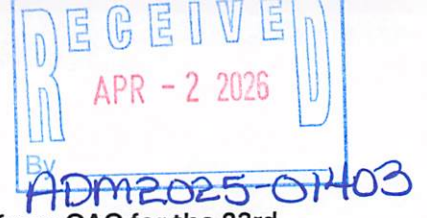
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I'm grateful that the Tennessee Supreme Court is leading this effort to reform and modernize our legal system. I encourage you to authorize the delivery of legal services by legal helpers and continue exploring ways to ensure that every Tennessean can get the legal guidance they need, when and where they need it. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Vanessa Wandel  
Charlotte, TN  
vaness@23rdcac.org



**Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Comments on No. ADM2025-01403 from CAC for the 23rd Judicial District**

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis. I strongly endorse the Court's suggestion that people without law degrees could deliver legal services and support authorizing legal helpers to assist with basic civil legal needs. This is a smart, compassionate, and practical way to make justice more accessible.

I am with the Child Advocacy Center for the 23rd Judicial District. Our clients face many hurdles and affording an attorney is a common barrier for them. I would want legal helpers to have oversight by a nonprofit or company, and subject-matter training that can be done online in under 10 hours. I would want legal helpers to be able to assist with any civil legal matter.

Across our state, people struggle to access the legal assistance they need; lawyers are too expensive for most people, and many counties are classified as legal deserts because there just aren't enough lawyers to go around.

I urge the Court to focus on low-barrier approaches that expand access to basic help now. Authorized legal helpers could receive short, modular, and accessible subject-matter training, and work under the supervision of non-profits, libraries, community and religious centers, and legal businesses. Licensure that requires extensive training or costly credentialing risks recreating the lawyer-only bottleneck under a different name, while there are countless routine, low-risk legal needs that could be met today by a neighbor who has undergone a short online course.

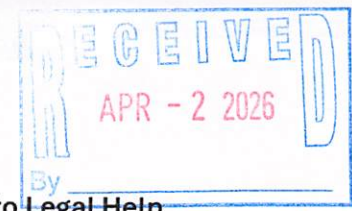
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Sincerely,

Kathryn Norbeck  
knorbeck@23rdcac.org



From CAC Intern - Comments on No. ADM2025-01403 - Expand Access to Legal Help

VIA EMAIL

Dear Clerk Hivner and Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court,

I am writing in response to the Court's request for comments on the regulation of the legal profession and Tennessee's access-to-justice crisis. I strongly endorse the Court's suggestion that people without law degrees could deliver legal services and support authorizing legal helpers to assist with basic civil legal needs. This is a smart, compassionate, and practical way to make justice more accessible.

I am an intern with the Child Advocacy Center. In my community, expanding access to legal help is important because it helps to better serve underserved individuals. I would want legal helpers to have oversight by a nonprofit or company, and subject-matter training that can be done online in under 10 hours. I would want legal helpers to be able to assist with any civil legal matter.

Across our state, people struggle to access the legal assistance they need; lawyers are too expensive for most people, and many counties are classified as legal deserts because there just aren't enough lawyers to go around.

I urge the Court to focus on low-barrier approaches that expand access to basic help now. Authorized legal helpers could receive short, modular, and accessible subject-matter training, and work under the supervision of non-profits, libraries, community and religious centers, and legal businesses. Licensure that requires extensive training or costly credentialing risks recreating the lawyer-only bottleneck under a different name, while there are countless routine, low-risk legal needs that could be met today by a neighbor who has undergone a short online course.

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Sincerely,

Emily Toler  
Bradyville, TN  
etoler@23rdcac.org