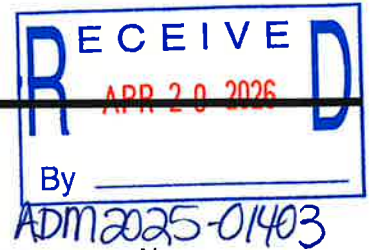


**Kim Meador**



**From:** Jessie Burkhart <jessie.burkhart@foradvocacy.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, April 20, 2026 2:53 PM  
**To:** appellatecourtclerk  
**Subject:** Expand Legal Help in Tennessee: Fifth Grade Teacher's Comments on No. ADM2025-01403

**Warning: Unusual sender** <jessie.burkhart@foradvocacy.com>

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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 support the Tennessee Supreme Court allowing people without law degrees—like legal helpers or community justice workers—to deliver legal services and help with basic civil legal needs.

I am a 5th grade teacher, and my school's community needs more access to civil legal help because I teach in a low-income area with limited resources. I support trained nonlawyers playing a role in addressing civil legal issues because all students need to be heard regardless of income. All means all. The need is great so any help would help impact my teaching area for the better.

I would want legal helpers to have oversight by an organization or company and include non-English speakers, and I would want legal helpers to be able to assist with any civil legal matter, including family and consumer needs.

I encourage the Court to focus on low-barrier solutions that make basic legal help accessible and approachable. Nonlawyers could complete short, practical training focused on specific subjects and could provide assistance through trusted institutions such as nonprofits, libraries, faith groups, and businesses.

The Court should also recognize that certain forms of basic legal assistance are low-risk activities that should fall outside Unauthorized Practice of Law restrictions. Creating clear carveouts for this type of help would expand access without sacrificing consumer protection. Tennesseans already benefit from existing consumer protection laws that safeguard against misconduct.

I'm grateful that the Tennessee Supreme Court is leading this effort to reform and modernize our legal system. Thank you for the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue.

Sincerely,

Jessie Burkhart  
Knoxville, TN  
jessie.burkhart@knoxschools.org