

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE  
AT NASHVILLE

<b>FILED</b> 10/28/2024 Clerk of the Appellate Courts
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**IN RE: REQUEST FOR PROVISION OF PRO BONO LEGAL SERVICES  
FOLLOWING FLOODING IN EAST TENNESSEE**

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**No. ADM2024-01622**

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**ORDER**

On September 27, 2024, the Governor of the State of Tennessee declared that a major disaster and state of emergency exists in the State of Tennessee following severe weather, including torrential rainfall and flash flooding, that began on September 26, 2024. Also on September 27, 2024, the President of the United States declared that an emergency exists in eight counties in East Tennessee due to the severe weather and flooding. And on October 4, 2024, this Court issued an Order promulgating a limited disaster plan extending certain filing deadlines in the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Judicial Districts.

On October 7, 2024, the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services and Legal Aid of East Tennessee jointly submitted a request that the Court activate Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 47 and authorize lawyers licensed in other states to engage in the temporary practice of law in Tennessee on a pro bono basis.

Based on the foregoing circumstances, the Court concludes that an emergency affecting the justice system exists in the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Judicial Districts. Accordingly, any lawyer authorized to practice law in another United States jurisdiction, and not disbarred, suspended from practice or otherwise restricted from practice in any jurisdiction, may provide legal services to residents of the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Judicial Districts on a temporary basis. Such legal services must be provided on a pro bono basis without compensation, expectation of compensation, or other direct or indirect pecuniary gain to the lawyer. Such legal services shall be assigned and supervised through the Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services and/or Legal Aid of East Tennessee.

The authorization to practice law granted by this Order shall end when this Court determines by separate Order that the emergency conditions have ended. A lawyer representing clients in this jurisdiction at that time will still be authorized to continue the provision of legal services for such time as is reasonably necessary to complete the representation. The lawyer, however, shall not thereafter accept new clients.

Pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 47(e)(2), the Court hereby authorizes any lawyers providing temporary legal services pursuant to this Order to appear in all of the courts of the First, Second, Third, and Fourth Judicial Districts without seeking pro hac vice admission and without paying any admission fee.

Lawyers providing legal services pursuant to this Order are subject to this Court's disciplinary authority and the Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct and shall file a registration statement with the Clerk of this Court within 30 days from the commencement of the provision of legal services. Any lawyer who provides legal services pursuant to this Order shall not be considered to be engaged in the unlawful practice of law in this jurisdiction.

Lawyers providing legal services pursuant to this Order shall inform clients in this jurisdiction of the jurisdiction in which they are authorized to practice law, any limits on that authorization, and that they are not authorized to practice law in this jurisdiction except as permitted by this Rule. They shall not state or imply to any person that they are otherwise authorized to practice law in this jurisdiction.

It is so ORDERED.

PER CURIAM