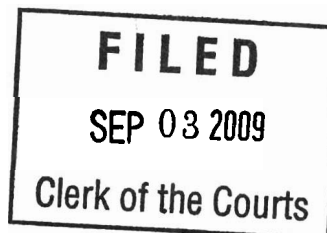


IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE  
AT NASHVILLE



**IN RE: AMENDMENT TO RULE 9,  
RULES OF THE TENNESSEE SUPREME COURT**

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M2009-01818-SC-RL2-RL

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**ORDER**

The Access to Justice Commission submitted to the Court a draft rule regarding the reporting of Tennessee lawyers' pro bono activities. Upon due consideration, the Court has revised the Commission's draft rule to provide for voluntary reporting of pro bono activities. The Court hereby publishes for public comment the proposed amendment set out in the attached Appendix A, adopting a new Section 20.11 to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9.

The Court solicits written comments from judges, lawyers, bar organizations, members of the public, and any other interested parties. The deadline for submitting written comments is September 30, 2009. Written comments should be addressed to:

Michael W. Catalano, Clerk  
100 Supreme Court Building  
401 Seventh Avenue North  
Nashville, TN 37219-1407

with the case number (above) noted on the correspondence.

The Clerk shall provide a copy of this order to LexisNexis and to Thomson Reuters/West. In addition, this order shall be posted on the Tennessee Supreme Court's website.

FOR THE COURT:

JANICE M. HOLDER, CHIEF JUSTICE

The signature is a cursive script of "Janice M. Holder" written in black ink. Below the signature is a horizontal line, and underneath the line, the name "JANICE M. HOLDER, CHIEF JUSTICE" is printed in a sans-serif font.

*APPENDIX A*

*PROPOSED AMENDMENT TO TENN. SUP. CT. R. 9,  
NEW SECTION 20.11*

**20.11.** Every lawyer who is required by section 20.5 to file an annual registration statement with the Board of Professional Responsibility is requested to voluntarily file a pro bono reporting statement, reporting the extent of the lawyer's pro bono legal services and activities during the previous calendar year. In reporting the extent of the lawyer's pro bono legal services and activities, the lawyer is requested to state whether or not the lawyer made any voluntary financial contributions pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 6.1(c), but the lawyer shall not disclose the amount of any such contributions.

The pro bono reporting statement shall be provided to the lawyer by the Board of Professional Responsibility with the lawyer's annual registration statement. The lawyer is requested to complete the pro bono reporting statement and file it with his or her annual registration statement.

The pro bono reporting statement shall be promulgated by the Board of Professional Responsibility in substantially the following format:

Many attorneys freely give their time and talents to improve our profession, our system of justice and our communities. Gathering information about this volunteer work by lawyers is essential to efforts to obtain and to maintain funding for civil and criminal legal services for the indigent and for promoting and maintaining the image of the legal profession. For that reason, the Supreme Court of Tennessee requests that you voluntarily report the extent of your pro bono activities in the preceding calendar year.

(1) I hereby report that in   year  , I worked approximately:

       hours in providing legal services without fee or expectation of fee to persons of limited means, *see* Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 6.1(a)(1);

       hours in providing legal services without fee or expectation of fee to charitable, religious, civic, community, governmental, and educational organizations in matters that are designed primarily to address the needs of persons of limited means, *see* Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 6.1(a)(2);

\_\_\_\_ hours in the delivery of legal services at no fee or at a substantially reduced fee to individuals, groups, or organizations seeking to secure or protect civil rights, civil liberties, or public rights, or charitable religious, civic, community, governmental, and educational organizations in matters in furtherance of their organizational purposes, where the payment of standard legal fees would significantly deplete the organization's economic resources or would be otherwise inappropriate, *see* Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 6.1(b)(1);

\_\_\_\_ hours in the delivery of legal services at a substantially reduced fee to persons of limited means, *see* Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 6.1(b)(2);

\_\_\_\_ hours participating in activities for improving the law, the legal system, or the legal profession, *see* Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 6.1(b)(3).

(2) I voluntarily contributed financial support to organizations that provide legal services to persons of limited means, *see* Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 6.1(c): \_\_\_ yes; \_\_\_ no. (Please do not disclose the amount of any such contributions.)

The Board of Professional Responsibility may promulgate such forms, policies and procedures as may be necessary to implement this rule.

The individual information voluntarily provided by lawyers in the pro bono reporting statements filed pursuant to this section shall be confidential and shall not be a public record. The Board of Professional Responsibility shall not release any individual information contained in such statements, except as directed in writing by the Tennessee Supreme Court or as required by law. The Board, however, may compile statistical data derived from the statements, which data shall not identify any individual lawyer, and may release any such compilations to the public.

*[end of Appendix A]*