

Legal Student Services

Introduction

Providing low-to-no cost legal services can offer students valuable assistance in understanding, addressing and solving their legal problems. Particularly for low-income students, who often lack the means to effectively deal with legal issues, providing these services allows them a better chance to stay enrolled and focused on school.

"According to an American Bar Association study, at least 40% of low and moderate-income households experience a legal problem each year."¹

Support and Empower Students with Representation



- Legal consultations
- Referrals to attorneys
- Free notary services

Legal Advice



- Can make the difference between students ending up in school or incarcerated
- Helps students avoid unnecessary litigation

Implementation

Many low-income students lack the financial resources and connections to properly address and understand complex legal issues themselves. Some suggestions on ways to help provide legal support include:

- Hold campus-wide legal service fairs
- Create a legal ombudsman position to help oversee student difficulties/disputes
- Connect with local law schools to have some of their students come to campus offering legal support
- Provide transportation access to legal aid societies

The resources listed on the right side of the page provide affordable legal services to individuals in need in Tennessee. There are organizations listed by region as well as legal services specialized for people in poverty, individuals with disabilities, migrant farmers and immigrants.

Best Practices:

- Having a portion of the student activity fee that funds Student Legal Services
- Create/Publicize a campus-wide legal services event through posters, flyers, social media, etc.
- Be sure to include the Tennessee legal assistance organizations shown below in a list of available resources to distribute to students
- If your school has a Legal/Paralegal Studies department, contact your professors with legal backgrounds to inquire about additional legal/pro bono services that may be available

Resources:

- TN Affordable Legal Service
- [Memphis Area](#)
 - [West Tennessee](#)
 - [Middle TN & Cumberland](#)
 - [East Tennessee](#)
 - [SE Tennessee Legal Services](#)
 - [Law Search Pro TN](#)
 - [Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services](#)
 - [Tennessee Justice Center](#)
 - [Disability Rights TN](#)
 - [Southern Migrant Legal Services](#)
 - [TN Justice for Our Neighbors](#)

¹Pro Bono Net-Volunteer lawyers and legal aid advocates increasing access to justice <https://www.probono.net/>