

Tennessee Faith and Justice Alliance

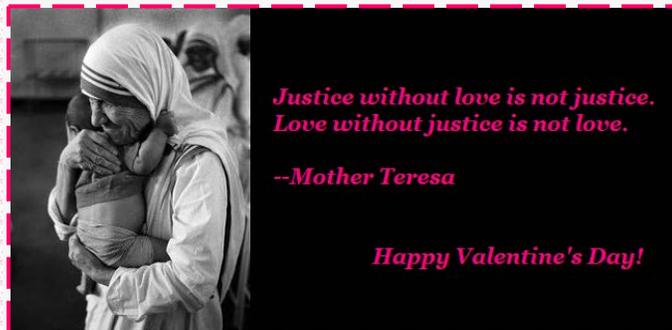
TFJA



THE TENNESSEE
FAITH & JUSTICE
ALLIANCE

FEBRUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

“The most radical teachings of every faith and every great religious master include love, yet none of them focused on romantic love. As people of faith, the time has come to reclaim Valentine’s Day as an opportunity to serve the wider world. Let’s celebrate the radical call to love our neighbors as our selves, and to reach out in love to help end oppression.” –Julie-Ann Silberman-Bunn



Dear Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance members,

What if when we thought about Valentine’s Day, we thought about pro bono? Indeed, love and justice go hand in hand, even better than chocolate and flowers! What would happen if we all committed to renewing our passion for pro bono and gave love, real love, in the form of justice to our communities this February?

This Valentine’s Day we challenge Tennessee attorneys and faith leaders to *fall in love with pro bono... perhaps all over again.*

Fundamental to the idea of falling in love with pro bono is that by fostering access to justice to those in our communities, we both give and receive love. *But what is love?* Rabbi David Wolpe writes in [TIME Magazine](#) that love is “when one person believes in another person and shows it.” Rabbi Wolpe goes on to explain that love “is a feeling that expresses itself in action. What we really feel is reflected in what we do.” By choosing to offer services pro bono publico, attorneys show their belief in fellow humans or, stated differently, *love their fellow human*. Therefore, falling back in love with pro bono at Valentine’s Day is easy because pro bono is a form of love.

“Some lawyers simply *love* their fellow man.”

–George (Buck) T. Lewis, ABA Standing Committee on Pro Bono and Public Service in the [“The Profound Joy of Pro Bono,” Dialogue](#), Vol. 19, No. 3

Still not quite persuaded that Valentine’s Day and pro bono are the ultimate romance? Buck Lewis reminds us that one of the most fundamental reasons to do pro bono is based in a simple love for one’s fellow man. Buck explains,

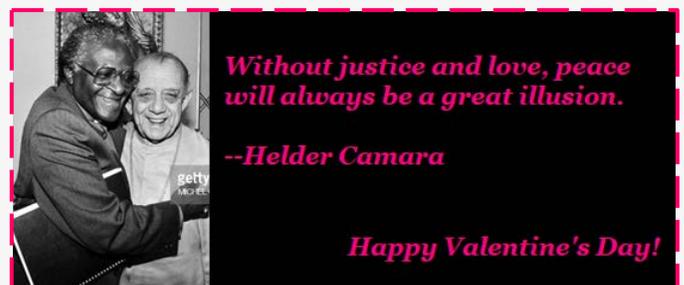
“Who are these people with legal problems who cannot afford a lawyer? They are our brothers and sisters. Like my Grandfather, they paint our houses, fix our roofs, and clean our gutters. They work in the hotels where we stay. They serve us our food at our bar luncheons. And some of them struggle to make ends meet between their first and second or second and third tours of duty. Most of them are smart, not dull. Most of them are hardworking, not lazy. It’s just that when privilege was given out, they were sitting at the back of the room...”

“Never forget that justice is what love looks like in public.” –Cornel West

For people of faith, this love may take on even greater meaning as love and justice intersect and intertwine with many forms of religious practice and tradition. One such example is expressed by John Dear SJ, who writes in his introduction to Henri J.M. Nouwen’s [The Road to Peace: Writings on Peace and Justice](#) that,

“I agreed that we are all the beloved of God, but in a world of injustice, we are required to work for justice... As the beloved of God, we must dedicate ourselves to relieving the suffering of the poor... The life of the beloved children of God, I pointed out, promotes life for all, especially those suffering the brunt of death—the third world poor, the hungry, the homeless, the imprisoned, those on death row, the unborn, children, and the victims of war.”

Whatever your motivating factor, there are many reasons to fall in love with pro bono this Valentine’s Day.



**“God’s justice and love are one. Infinite justice must be infinite love. Justice is but another sign of love.”
–Frederick William Robertson**

I want to fall in love with pro bono this Valentine’s Day!! Tell me more!

Well, I am glad you asked! Here are some opportunities through the Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance happening in the next week!

Small Business Clinics and Legal Trainings

What is not to love about small businesses? Help someone make their dreams a reality this Valentine’s Day at a small business start-up clinic! Volunteers at a small business clinic may work with a range of clients, from mom-and-pop retailers to website designers to childcare centers to yoga studios.

Small Business Start-Up Clinic

Collaboration with Chattanooga Christian Legal Society, Gospel Justice Initiative, and Tennessee Faith and Justice Alliance
February 15, 2018 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM, Eastern Time
White Oak United Methodist Church
2232 Lyndon Avenue,
Chattanooga, Tennessee 37415

Expungement Clinics & Indigency Dockets

An expungement clinic, which is often coupled with an indigency docket, empowers attendees to speak with a volunteer attorney to find out if they are eligible for expungement and to take the necessary steps to have a non-conviction criminal record expunged. Specialized knowledge of expungements not required, and training available on site.

Non-Conviction Expungement Clinic & Resource Fair

Collaboration with TBA Young Lawyers Division and other partners
Saturday, February 17th, 2018 9am-2pm
St. Andrew AME Church
867 S. Parkway E., Memphis, TN, 38106
Mandatory Registration from 9am-10am
FIRST COME FIRST SERVED! *Space is limited to the first 200 people*

Immigration Clinics and Legal Trainings

To say that immigration law is vast and complex is an understatement, and dabbling is discouraged. However, there are numerous ways non-immigration practitioners can provide services in more familiar areas, such as by providing family law services or even helping recruit interpreters for court services.

East Tennessee Interpreter Project & TN Faith & Justice Alliance Training

February 16, 2018 9:30 AM - 12:30 PM, Eastern Time
First Baptist Church, in Trentham Hall,
510 W. Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee 37902
CLE available

Special Immigrant Juvenile Status and Children’s Asylum Training
Collaboration with Community Legal Center & LMU-Duncan School of Law

Friday, February 16, 2018 1 PM - 5 PM
Robert H. Watson, Jr. Memorial Courtroom
3.5 hours CLE available (2.5 general, 1 ethics)
\$35 (Includes coffee & snacks)

General Civil Legal Advice Clinics

There are countless ways that attorneys, legal assistants and law students can give of their time to help disadvantaged Tennesseans at a general civil legal clinic. Indeed, general legal clinics have been described as the “heart and soul” of the pro bono clinic world. How Valentine’s Day appropriate!

General Civil Legal Advice Clinic

Collaboration with NAACP Nashville and Interdenominational Ministers Fellowship
Saturday, February 17th, 2018
1308 Jefferson St, Nashville, TN 37208
Contact rkimbrough@mmc.ed for details

General Civil Legal Advice Legal Clinic

Collaboration with Lipscomb Institute for Law, Justice, and Society
Tuesday, February 20th, 2018 5:30pm
St. James Missionary Baptist Church
600 28th Ave N
Nashville, TN

Didn't find an opportunity near you? See our monthly clinic list [here](#) for more pro bono clinic opportunities in your area! Want to host one of these clinics at an area near you? We can help!

**“Love is the motive, but justice is the instrument.”
–Reinhold Niebuhr**

Even More to Love!!: The Tennessee Faith & Justice Summit
The Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance is partnering with Sewanee: University of the South to host a faith-leader summit with programming specifically designed for clergy and lay leaders. The program will be held on April 17th, 2018 from 10am-4:30pm and will be free to attendees. The program will feature plenary speakers, legal resource trainings, and a panel of faith leaders who have implemented TFJA programs at their houses of worship.
Registration coming soon!

Share the pro bono love! Print off this newsletter and cut out the Valentines included! Write the 1-844-Help4TN phone number on the back of them and share them with your friends!



**Power at its best is love
implementing the demands of justice.
Justice at its best is love correcting
everything that stands against love.**

–Martin Luther King, Jr.

Happy Valentine’s Day!