

Tennessee Faith and Justice Alliance

TFJA



THE TENNESSEE
FAITH & JUSTICE
ALLIANCE

JANUARY 2018 NEWSLETTER

“The object of a New Year is not that we should have a new year. It is that we should have a new soul and a new nose, new feet, a new backbone, new ears, and new eyes. **Unless a particular man made New Years resolutions, he would make no resolutions. Unless a man starts afresh about things, he will certainly do nothing effective.**”
– G.K. Chesterton



Dear Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance members,

Happy New Year!! The second week of 2018 is upon us and, if you're anything like us, you've been reflecting on 2017, have already set and broken several overly-ambitious New Years' Resolutions, and are now thinking more realistically about what goals you would like to achieve in 2018.

Whether you have already set some goals for the new year or are just now getting around to thinking about them, we encourage you to **commit to making a lasting difference in your community in 2018 through the Tennessee Faith & Justice Alliance and other faith-based or pro bono programs in your area.**

By setting a goal and sticking to it, you can change both your life and the lives of other Tennesseans in 2018.

“Let our New Years' resolution be this: **we will be there for one another as fellow members of humanity**, in the finest sense of the word. – Goran Persson

“Character is the ability to carry out a good resolution **long after the excitement of the moment has passed.**”
– Cavett Robert

We hear you: New Years' Resolutions have a bad track record. You may have already broken the ones you set just over one week ago. *There is still time to regroup and set an achievable faith and justice goal this year. Here are a few tips:*

Set a Goal that is Measurable

Instead of: *I will do more pro bono.*

Try: *I will be recognized as an Attorney for Justice by the Tennessee Supreme Court & will average 4.5 hours of pro bono each month in 2018 in order to achieve this goal.*

Set a Goal that is Time-Bound

Instead of: *I will get my house of worship to join the TFJA.*

Try: *I will attend the Faith-Based Summit in April 2018, will implement a referral program at my house of worship by July 2018, and will host a legal training at my house of worship as part of #PBFDays in October 2018.*

Set a Goal that is Realistic

Instead of: *I will singlehandedly host a weekly legal clinic program starting last week at a brand new house of worship.*

Try: *I will identify a team to support a quarterly legal clinic program at my house of worship by February 2018. We will host our first clinic in April 2018, in conjunction with #Help4TNDay. We will host a quarterly clinic thereafter.*

A RESOLVE For Every Morning of the New Year

I will this day try to live a simple & sincere and serene life & repelling promptly every thought of discontent, anxiety, discouragement, impurity and self-seeking & cultivating cheerfulness & magnanimity, charity, and the habit of holy silence & exercising economy in expenditure. carefulness in conversation diligence in appointed service, fidelity to every trust and a child-like trust in God

From a Calendar by Bishop John H. Vincent
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YOUR NEW YEARS RESOLUTION

Resolve to renew all your old resolves. And add a few that are new. Resolve to keep them as long as you can. What more can a poor man do.

“Recently, I heard someone say, “If the devil can’t make you bad, they’ll make you busy.” I can’t add extra hours to the day, but I can make better use of the ones I have. **I can prioritize my service to others as something that is important — even critical — to my professional development and well-being, to my role as a citizen and a community member, and to my children’s futures. If this strikes a chord, then join me in a New Year’s resolution for 2018.**” – Teri Ross

Sample New Years’ Goal for Attorneys & Implementation Timeline

Goal: I will be recognized as an Attorney for Justice by the Tennessee Supreme Court & will average 4.5 hours of pro bono each month in 2018 in order to achieve this goal.

Is this goal right for you? *The TN Supreme Court honors all attorneys providing at least 50 hours of service annually, with a goal of increasing statewide pro bono work to 50 percent participation. If you can envision 4 hours most months or one hour per week, perhaps this is the year to join the ranks of those recognized as Attorneys for Justice. Read more about the Attorneys for Justice Program here: <https://www.tncourts.gov/ProBonoRecognition>*

Possible Timeline to Achieve Goal (Avg. 4.17 Hrs/Mo)

January: Answer questions on TNFreeLegalAnswers.Org during the lunch hour 1-2 times per week

February: Attend 1-2 recurring legal clinics or attorney of the day programs in your area. See the TFJA Monthly Clinic List or e-mail us to find one near you.

March: Volunteer with the IRS VITA tax program (1-2 times)

April: Attend a #Help4TNDay Expungement Clinic

May: Join a TBA Committee and participate in meetings

June: Supervise a Law Student Intern through the TFJA to update our regional resource manuals (<1 hour per week)

July: Answer calls on the Help4TN phone line through TALS

August: Accept a pro bono referral case from your local legal services provider (*hours vary on a case by case basis, contact your local pro bono coordinator for details*)

September: Mentor another lawyer through the TBA Mentorship Program or TLAP Peer Monitoring Program

October: Host a #PBFDays Office Hours Clinic at your House of Worship. All the materials you need are on our website!

November: Participate in a Veterans Clinic, Military Mondays, or Veterans Project: Attorney for the Day Weds.

December: Help coordinate your local bar association’s Annual Holiday party! Congrats! You met your goal!!

Does 50 hours seem out of reach? Maybe set a goal of doing 5 or 10 more hours of pro bono than you did last year, and keep track of your hours. You can start by trying one of the above suggestions for one month! If you like it, try it again for a second month! Set your own pace, and remember that every little bit helps. You might surprise yourself!

Sample New Years’ Goals for Faith Leaders & Implementation Timeline

Goal: I will identify a team to support a quarterly legal clinic program at my house of worship by February 2018. We will host our first clinic in April 2018, in conjunction with #Help4TNDay. We will host a quarterly clinic thereafter.

Is this goal right for you? *Before you commit to a quarterly clinic at your house of worship, consider the legal needs and legal resources of your membership and community. Consider partnering with neighboring houses of worship if there is an imbalance of need and resources at your house of worship. Contact the AOC and we can help you develop your program and partnerships as needed.*

Possible Timeline to Achieve Goal (Avg. 2-4 Hrs/Mo)

January: Consider the needs and resources of your house of worship. Are there many congregants who need legal help? Do you have attorneys in your membership? Review resources on TFJA Webpage & www.Help4TN.org.

February: Identify one attorney in your community to serve as Clinic Coordinator. Work with that attorney to identify 3-5 additional attorneys who will serve as your clinic team. Set a date for your initial clinic, reserve space. Contact AOC for additional support, resources, and malpractice insurance.

March: Have your house of worship post information about the legal clinic in regular mailings, make announcements to membership, advertise through the community as needed.

April: Host a #Help4TNDay general civil legal clinic

May: Thank attorneys for participation, meet to determine how to improve next clinic (e.g. is additional advertising needed? Community outreach?) Set July for next clinic, reserve space

June: Have your house of worship post information about the legal clinic in regular mailings, make announcements to membership, advertise through the community as needed.

July: Host a general civil legal clinic

August: Thank attorneys for participation, meet as needed to determine how to improve next clinic (e.g. is additional advertising needed? Community outreach?) Set date for October clinic, reserve space

September: Have your house of worship post information about the legal clinic in regular mailings, make announcements to membership, advertise through the community as needed.

October: Host a #PBFDays general civil legal clinic

November: Thank attorneys for participation, meet as needed to determine how to improve next clinic (e.g. is additional advertising needed? Community outreach?) Set date for January clinic, reserve space

December: Repeat prior. Congrats! You met your goal!!

Does a quarterly clinic seem out of reach? Try hosting an office hours clinic! Have one or two attorneys commit to being available at your office at a specific time. Have congregants make appointments through the office. All the forms you need are available on our website!