



**University of Memphis  
Cecil C. Humphreys School of Law  
Pro Bono Program**

Pre-Approved Pro Bono Placements

Career Services Office  
901-678-3217  
[lawcareerservices@memphis.edu](mailto:lawcareerservices@memphis.edu)

**If you need assistance contacting any of these organizations, please contact  
lawcareerservices@memphis.edu.**

### **Advocates for Immigrant Rights (AIR)**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.729.9560 | [airlegal.org](http://airlegal.org)

The mission of Advocates for Immigrant Rights (AIR) is to fight for the dignity, safety, and inclusion of immigrants in the United States, especially those most marginalized, through legal representation and advocacy. AIR fights for the rights of immigrants but also for the expansion of those rights to ensure that all people are equally protected by the laws of the United States. AIR seeks to create a structural and systemic change by coordinating with other legal service providers and community-based organizations to complement our skills and build our mutual capacity.

### **Alternative Spring Break (ASB)**

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Memphis, Tennessee (University-sponsored program) | [memphis.edu/law/current-students/asb.php](http://memphis.edu/law/current-students/asb.php)

The Public Action Law Society hosts Alternative Spring Break (“ASB”) annually during the law school’s spring break. A student-led program, ASB offers students the opportunity for experience in professional collaboration and leadership while serving the greater Memphis and Tennessee community. ASB divides students into groups, or “tracks,” that focus on a specific legal subject or serve a particular demographic traditionally underserved within the community. Partnerships with legal nonprofits and dedicated pro bono attorneys assures the continuation of ASB. Provided that students satisfactorily perform all responsibilities and keep all commitments, track leaders and other ASB leadership positions receive forty (40) hours pro bono credit, while participants receive thirty-two (32) pro bono hours.

### **American Civil Liberties Union of Tennessee (ACLU-TN)**

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Nashville, Tennessee | 615.320.7142 | [aclu-tn.org](http://aclu-tn.org)

The ACLU of Tennessee (ACLU-TN) is dedicated to translating the guarantees of the Bill of Rights into realities for all Tennesseans. Some of the issues ACLU-TN fights for include: the right to free speech and expression; the right to freely practice any religion or no religion; the right to equal treatment; the right to reproductive freedom; and the right to privacy. Law student volunteers are involved in research and preparation of legal memoranda, fact investigations, client and witness interviews, discovery, pre-trial motions, handling expert witnesses, as well as accompanying lawyers at court appearances.

## **Bass, Berry & Simms PLC Pro Bono Program**

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Memphis, Nashville, Knoxville, Tennessee; Washington, D.C. | 615.742.6200 | [bassberry.com](http://bassberry.com)

The *pro bono* program at Bass, Berry & Simms focuses on work that strengthens families, empowers the community, and protects civil rights. Public service is part of the culture at Bass, Berry & Sims and the firm is committed to pursuing systemic change to eradicate the root causes of legal, social, and economic inequalities. Bass, Berry & Sims joined other firms across the country in summer 2020 to form the Law Firm Antiracism Alliance to “leverage the resources of the private bar to amplify the voices of communities and individuals oppressed by racism, to better use the law as a vehicle for change that benefits communities of color and to promote racial equity in the law and in government institutions.”

## **Community Legal Center (CLC)**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.543.3395 | [clcmemphis.org](http://clcmemphis.org)

The Community Legal Center (CLC) offers legal services to thousands of lower income individuals and families in the Memphis area. Cases the CLC handles include landlord/tenant disputes, garnishments, conservatorships and guardianships, commercial contract disputes, probate matters, non-contested divorces, adoptions, and obtaining child support. CLC also offers the following services to low-income immigrants: asylum, u-visas, t-visas, change of status, and voluntary departure.

## **Ducks Unlimited**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.758.3771 | [ducks.org](http://ducks.org)

Ducks Unlimited is a non-profit dedicated to the conservation of wetlands and associated upland habitats for waterfowl and other wildlife. Ducks Unlimited takes a continental, landscape approach to wetland conservation. Since 1937 they have conserved more than 14 million acres of waterfowl habitat across North America. While Ducks Unlimited works in all fifty states, the organization focuses its efforts and resources on the habitats most beneficial to waterfowl. Its headquarters are in Memphis.

## **Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Federal Sector Hearings Division**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.544.0081 | [eoc.gov/field-office/location](http://eoc.gov/field-office/location)

The Memphis District Office Federal Sector Hearings Unit hears and decides employment discrimination cases brought by individuals against Federal agency employees under the laws enforced by the EEOC. The Memphis District has a Supervisory Administrative Judge, three Administrative Judges, and a Legal Assistant. The Office is responsible for all Federal Sector cases brought in the Memphis District, which includes all of Tennessee, Arkansas, and North Mississippi.

## **Equal Employment Opportunities Commission Legal Division**

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Memphis, TN | 901.272.9966 | [eeoc.gov/field-office/memphis/location](http://eeoc.gov/field-office/memphis/location)

The United States Equal Employment Opportunity Commission Legal Division is responsible for enforcing federal laws that make it illegal to discriminate against a job applicant or an employee because of the person's race, color, religion, sex (including pregnancy, transgender status, and sexual orientation), national origin, age (40 or older), disability, or genetic information. The EEOC Legal Division Memphis District Office includes Tennessee, Arkansas, and North Mississippi.

## **Equal Justice Works**

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Washington, D.C. | 202.466.3686 | [equaljusticeworks.org](http://equaljusticeworks.org)

Equal Justice Works is a nonprofit organization that creates opportunities for lawyers and law students to transform their passion for equal justice into a lifelong commitment to public service. Each year, Equal Justice Works mobilizes over 300 fellows across the country to address a wide range of unmet legal needs. Fellows work to ensure equal access to justice for underserved communities across the country. Students who are interested in a career in public service should apply to the Equal Justice Works Fellowship. Fellows can design their own program to meet a specific population or unmet need in their community, or you can apply to an established program. Fellows receive a competitive salary, health insurance, fringe benefits, up to \$5,000 in loan repayment assistance, annual leadership development training, and ongoing support from Equal Justice Works.

## **Federal Public Defender Western District of Tennessee**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.544.3895 | [tnw.fd.org](http://tnw.fd.org)

The Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Tennessee is a criminal defense governmental agency based in Memphis. Since 1974, the Federal Public Defender for the Western District of Tennessee has provided legal representation to persons accused of a crime against the United States who are financially unable to afford private counsel.

## **Judge Advocate General Corps (JAG)**

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Air Force | 800.524.8723 | [afjag.af.mil](http://afjag.af.mil)

Army | 888.706.2769 | [goarmy.com/jag](http://goarmy.com/jag)

Coast Guard | 202.372.3822 | [uscg.mil/resources/legal](http://uscg.mil/resources/legal)

Marines | [marines.com/becoming-a-marine/officer/marine-corps-law-program](http://marines.com/becoming-a-marine/officer/marine-corps-law-program)

Navy | [jag.navy.mil](http://jag.navy.mil)

Each JAG Corps division has opportunities for students to intern during the summer. (Note that if you are hired for a paid internship, your hours cannot count toward the Pro Bono Program. If, however, you continue to volunteer after your paid internship is complete, these hours will count toward the pro bono requirement.) JAG interns get hands-on experience in a wide number of legal fields, including civil, criminal, and international law. Interns often get to draft briefs, conduct a claims investigation, interview witnesses, and assist in the preparation of courts-martial.

## **Just City**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.206.2226 | [justcity.org](http://justcity.org)

Just City is a criminal justice reform and advocacy organization. Just City was founded in 2015 by a group of activists, attorneys, and civic leaders to advance policies and programs within Shelby County and the State of Tennessee that strengthen the right to counsel and mitigate the damage caused to families and neighborhoods as a result of contact with the criminal justice system. Just City assists with expungement fees, bail funds, sponsors a court watch program,

## **Latino Memphis**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.366.5882 | [latinomemphis.org](http://latinomemphis.org)

Latino Memphis is a nonprofit immigration organization. Latino Memphis provides services through four programs: El Centro (information and referrals), Abriendo Puertas (Latino Student Success), Derechos (Immigrant Rights Defense Center), Tu Voz (Policy and Community Engagement).

## **Legal Aid of Arkansas**

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West Memphis, Arkansas | 870.972.9224 | [arlegalservices.org](http://arlegalservices.org)

Legal Aid of Arkansas (LAA) provides civil legal assistance for low-income Arkansans. LAA has offices in Batesville, Harrison, Helena, Highland, Jonesboro, Mountain View, Newport, Springdale, and West Memphis. LAA's West Memphis office is located just 15 minutes from the law school. The types of issues LAA handles include consumer law, education law, employment law, family law, health law, housing law, individual rights law, public benefits, veterans/military benefits, and wills and estates.

## **Legal Aid of East Tennessee (LAET)**

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Knoxville, Tennessee | 865.637.0484 | [laet.org](http://laet.org)

Legal Aid of East Tennessee (LAET) serves over 26 counties from Chattanooga to Johnson City, providing a wide range of civil legal assistance and advocacy to people with low income. LAET has offices in Chattanooga, Cleveland, Knoxville, Johnson City, Maryville, and Morristown.

## **Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland**

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Nashville, Tennessee | 615.244.6610 | [las.org](http://las.org)

Legal Aid Society takes civil cases on behalf of low-income clients. Legal Aid Society serves 48 counties and has offices in Clarksville, Columbia, Cookeville, Gallatin, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Oak Ridge, and Tullahoma. Law students can intern at any of the eight offices.

## **Memphis Area Legal Services (MALS)**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.523.8822 | [malsi.org](http://malsi.org)

Memphis Area Legal Services, Inc. (MALS) is the primary provider of civil legal representation to low income families in West Tennessee. MALS assists clients in the areas of: domestic violence; mortgage foreclosure, eviction, or homelessness; wrongful denial of benefits; consumer fraud or predatory lending; child welfare; elder law; bankruptcy; and general advice and counsel on family law. MALS has two locations: Memphis and Covington. Law students can volunteer on different cases or get involved in a variety of projects such as the Consumer Advice Clinic, the Family Law Advice Group, Saturday Legal Clinic, the Attorney of the Day Clinic, the Partnership for Education Advocacy and Parity, the Low Income Tax Project, the Pro Se Divorce Project, and the Rural Outreach Legal Clinic.

## **Memphis City Attorney's Office**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.636.6614 | [memphistn.gov/government/law](http://memphistn.gov/government/law)

The City Attorney's Office, or Law Division, for the City of Memphis is headed by the City Attorney and the staff attorneys. Staff attorneys work in two basic areas: service and litigation. Attorneys working in the service area are assigned to provide legal advice to various divisions of city government as well as a number of boards and commissions. City attorneys working in the litigation area defend lawsuits filed against the City.

## **Memphis and Shelby County Airport Authority (MSCAA)**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.922.8048 | [flymemphis.com](http://flymemphis.com)

The Memphis and Shelby County Airport Authority owns and manages the operations of the airport facilities and contracts with airlines, businesses, concessions operators, persons or companies wanting to lease space from the Authority. MSCAA was created in 1969 by the City of Memphis and Shelby County governments, pursuant to state statute, T.C.A. 42-4-101. MSCAA is a public and governmental authority.

## **Memphis and Shelby County Juvenile Court**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.222.0880 | [shelbycountyttn.gov/226/juvenile-court](http://shelbycountyttn.gov/226/juvenile-court)

The Juvenile Court handles juvenile delinquency cases in Memphis and Shelby County.

## **Mid-South Immigration Advocates (MIA)**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.244.4367 | [miamemphis.org](http://miamemphis.org)

Mid-South Immigration Advocates provides free and low-cost legal services to the most vulnerable immigrants in Memphis, focusing their representation on children, victims of violent crime, and asylum seekers. Mid-South Immigration Advocates empowers immigrant communities by helping people obtain economic security, maintain family unity, and escape violence. MIA manages four programs: the Asylum Initiative which serves detained immigrants and those seeking asylum, the Children's Project which protects unaccompanied minors from deportation, the Family Unity Project which keeps Memphis-area families together by providing affordable immigration and deportation defense, and the Survivors' Project which provides Memphis-area domestic violence survivors with free deportation defense.

## **Mississippi Center for Justice**

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Jackson, Mississippi | 601.352.2269 | [mscenterforjustice.org](http://mscenterforjustice.org)

Mississippi Center for Justice is a nonprofit public interest law firm promoting racial and economic justice in the areas of access to housing, access to healthcare, consumer protection, immigrants' rights, voting rights and disaster recovery. Mississippi center for Justice advances racial and economic justice through an approach that combines legal services with policy advocacy, community education, and media outreach.

## **Orion Federal Credit Union**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.266.2997 | [orionfcu.com](http://orionfcu.com)

Orion Federal Credit Union is one of Memphis's largest financial institutions, with a new HQ less than a mile from the University of Memphis Law School. Our operations are more complex than typical credit unions, allowing law students to have variety in questions they explore.

## **Regional One Health**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.545.6544 | [regionalonehealth.org](http://regionalonehealth.org)

Regional One Health is the only Level 1 Trauma Center in the midsouth and the only burn center in the four-state region verified by the American Burn Association and American College of Surgeons. Regional One Legal Counsel works on contract negotiation and drafting; research and advice on transactions and regulatory compliance.

## **Shelby County District Attorney's Office**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.222.1300 | [scdag.com](http://scdag.com)

The District Attorney General and her staff prosecute all criminal cases on behalf of Memphis and Shelby County.

## **Shelby County Public Defender's Office**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.222.2800 | [defendshelbyco.org](http://defendshelbyco.org)

The Public Defender's office provides legal representation to indigent clients in all criminal matters in the General Sessions Court, Criminal Court, and Circuit Court of Shelby County. The Public Defender's Office defends adults and children who have been transferred to adult court.

## **Southern Migrant Legal Services**

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Nashville, Tennessee | 615.538.0725 | [www.trla.org/nashville](http://www.trla.org/nashville)

Southern Migrant Legal Services is federally funded and handles the legal needs of migrant and seasonal workers. Southern Migrant Legal Services is part of Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid, headquartered in Mercedes, Texas with offices in seventeen other Texas cities and Nashville, Tennessee. Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid serves sixty-eight Texas counties. Southern Migrant Legal Services in Nashville provides free legal services to migrant workers in Alabama, Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Tennessee.



## **Street Law Society**

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Memphis, Tennessee (University-sponsored program) | [streetlaw.org](http://streetlaw.org)

Street Law provides Memphis-area high school students with regularly scheduled classes and workshops on a variety of legal topics. Law students, mentored by various law professors, step into the role teacher. Street Law aims to empower young people through education in the rule of law, human rights, and democracy. Street Law provides an opportunity for law students to engage in mentorship and publicly present on legal topics covered in law school classes. Street Law's program structure compliments or mirrors what the high school students learn in their typical class curriculum.

## **Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services (TALS)**

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Nashville, Tennessee | 615.627.0956 | [tals.org](http://tals.org)

Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services is a statewide nonprofit organization that serves the public interest by improving access to civil legal assistance.

## **Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence**

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Nashville, Tennessee | 615.386.9406 | [tncoalition.org](http://tncoalition.org)

The Tennessee Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence is a statewide nonprofit organization aimed at ending domestic violence and sexual assault.

## **Tennessee Innocence Project (TIP)**

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Nashville, Tennessee | 615.581.7230 | [tinnocence.org](http://tinnocence.org)

The Tennessee Innocence Project investigates and litigates claims of actual innocence made by Tennesseans. The Tennessee Innocence Project is a 501(c)(3) non-profit designed to prevent and correct wrongful convictions throughout the State of Tennessee. The Tennessee Innocence Project has three primary areas of focus: Litigating wrongful conviction cases; training law students and attorneys about how to litigate wrongful conviction cases; effectuating change that facilitate the discovery of wrongful convictions and remedies to the wrongfully convicted.

## **Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC)**

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Nashville, Tennessee | 615.833.0384 | [tnimmigrant.org](http://tnimmigrant.org)

The Tennessee Immigrant and Refugee Rights Coalition (TIRRC) is a statewide immigrant and refugee led collaboration whose mission is to empower immigrants and refugees throughout Tennessee to develop a unified voice and create an atmosphere in which they are recognized as positive contributors to the state.

## **Tennessee Supreme Court Access to Justice Initiative**

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Nashville, Tennessee | 615.741.2687 | [tsc.state.tn.us/programs/access-justice](http://tsc.state.tn.us/programs/access-justice)

The Tennessee Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) provides support to the TN Supreme Court and the entire state court system.

## **United States Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.544.3775 | [usace.army.mil](http://usace.army.mil)

The Memphis District of the United States Army Corps of Engineers delivers flood risk management, navigation, environmental stewardship, emergency operations, other authorized civil works and work for others to benefit the region and the nation. The legal office handles all in-house legal work for the Memphis district with a heavy administrative and federal litigation workload, including government contracts, employment and labor law, regulatory and environmental law, takings, and tort and admiralty claims.

## **United States Attorney's Office Western District of Tennessee**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.544.4231 | [justice.gov/usao-wdtn](http://justice.gov/usao-wdtn)

The United States Attorney's Office of the Western District of Tennessee represents the United States in criminal and civil matters in federal court.

## **United States Department of Justice Immigration Review**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.5285884 | [justice.gov/eoir](http://justice.gov/eoir)

The Department of Justice operates one of its immigration courts in Memphis, Tennessee. The Memphis Immigration Court is responsible for adjudicating removal proceedings, and its jurisdiction is comprised of Tennessee, Arkansas, and North Mississippi. At this stage in removal proceedings, the DOJ Executive Office for Immigration Review serves as the judicial branch.

## **Volunteer Income Taxpayer's Assistance Program (VITA)**

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Memphis, Tennessee | 901.678.3221 | [irs.gov/individuals](http://irs.gov/individuals)

Students from Memphis Law are starting a VITA program under the supervision of Prof. Kratzke. The VITA program provides free current year income tax preparation assistance for low-income taxpayers in Shelby County. From February until early April, the VITA program will operate on Wednesday afternoons. Students must go through training and pass an online test to volunteer.

## **West Tennessee Legal Services (WTLS)**

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Jackson, Tennessee | 731. 423.0616 | [wtls.org](http://wtls.org)

West Tennessee Legal Services (WTLS) is a non-profit organization that provides civil assistance to individuals, families, and communities located in West Tennessee. WTLS serves 17 counties: Benton, Carroll, Chester, Crockett, Dyer, Decatur, Gibson, Hardeman, Hardin, Haywood, Henry, Henderson, Lake, McNairy, Madison, Obion, and Weakley. WTLS handles the following types of cases: access to health/medical care, securing or retaining housing, ensuring compliance with Fair Housing laws, securing or retaining income, personal freedom and security rights, parental rights with state action, rights of persons in institutions, freedom of all persons from abuse, family issues, education rights, consumer rights, and community education. WTLS also has offices in Dyersburg, Huntingdon, and Selmer.

## **Youth Court Program**

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Memphis, Tennessee | [scsk12.org/ycp](http://scsk12.org/ycp)

Youth Court is the Juvenile Court of Memphis and Shelby County's first juvenile delinquency diversion and peer-justice program. Using restorative justice principles, Youth Court is dedicated to rehabilitating first-time nonviolent offenders by holding them accountable and educating them about citizenship. Volunteers help prepare high school students to prosecute, defend, and to serve as bailiffs and jurors in "real" sentencing hearings of juvenile offenders. Law students (2L and 3L) are encouraged to volunteer by serving as jury monitors and court clerks. Court hearings are held at the Juvenile Court on the first and third Thursdays of each month from 5 to 7 pm.

## **Other Pre-Approved Pro Bono Placements**

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### **Externship and Clinic Overages**

If you are enrolled in a clinic or externship and perform additional hours over and above the credit requirement, you may submit any of your overages as pre-approved pro bono hours (excluding for-profit placements).

### **Government Agencies**

The above list mentions the Shelby County District Attorney and Public Defender's Offices, but pro bono credit is available for unpaid, uncredited legal work for any government agency or office in any jurisdiction.

Consider the following local and regional courts:

### [United States Courts](#)

- United States Sixth Circuit Court of Appeal (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- United States Bankruptcy Appellate Panel for the Sixth Circuit (Cincinnati, Ohio)
- United States District Court for the Western District of Tennessee, Memphis, Tennessee
- United States District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee, Nashville, Tennessee
- United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee

Tennessee Courts

Tennessee Supreme Court, Nashville, Tennessee  
Tennessee Court of Appeals, Western District, Memphis, Tennessee  
Tennessee Circuit Court for the 30<sup>th</sup> District, Shelby County, Tennessee  
Tennessee Chancery Court for the 30<sup>th</sup> District, Shelby County, Tennessee  
Tennessee Criminal Court for the 30<sup>th</sup> District, Shelby County, Tennessee  
Tennessee Probate Court for the 30<sup>th</sup> District, Shelby County, Tennessee

Municipal Courts

[Bartlett Municipal Court](#)  
[Collierville Municipal Court](#)  
[Germantown Municipal Court](#)  
[Memphis Municipal Court](#)  
[Millington Municipal Court](#)  
[Shelby County Juvenile Court](#)  
[Shelby County General Sessions Court](#)