

# Legal Aid Society

## of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland

INFORMATION FOR RELEASE

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### Legal Aid Society Hires Two New Attorneys

NASHVILLE, Tenn. July 27, 2016 – Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland, Tennessee’s largest non-profit law firm, announced today that two new attorneys have been added to their firm.

Shaina Thompson is the newest attorney in the Family Law Section of the Nashville office of Legal Aid Society, after volunteering and working as a contract attorney there since October 2015. In addition to practicing general family law, she will spend half her time working with the Civil-Legal Advocate (CLA) Program. Through a grant from the City of Nashville, Legal Aid Society—via the CLA Program—recruits and trains volunteer attorneys to represent survivors of domestic violence on the Order of Protection dockets in Davidson County courts. She has worked as an intern in a private practice and as an elementary school teacher. Of note, Thompson participated in the creation of an all girl’s high school in Nairobi, Kenya, while serving as a Board Member of Reach One Mission International in Marietta, Georgia.

“Shaina has been working in our Family Law section, as a volunteer then a contract attorney, since October 2015,” said DarKenya Waller, managing attorney of Legal Aid Society’s office in Nashville. “Her extensive experience with survivors of domestic violence has already been and will continue to be an asset to our work.”

Thompson is a May 2015 graduate of the University of Georgia School of Law. She received her bachelor’s degree and Master of Arts in Executive Leadership from Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. During her law school career, she worked at the Family Violence Clinic and the Probate Court in Athens, Georgia.

Allison Jones joins Legal Aid Society as the Middle Tennessee Medical-Legal Partnership attorney. She most recently served as a law clerk for Senior Judge John T. Nixon of the U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Tennessee.

“Allison’s experience with the courts and strong research and writing background will be an asset to our clients,” Waller said. “She will take a hands-on role as the attorney for the Middle Tennessee Medical-Legal Partnership. Allison has been a public servant throughout her academic and legal career. Her compassion will serve her well as she provides free legal assistance to clients in a variety of subject matters through our medical-legal partnerships.”

The Middle Tennessee Medical-Legal Partnership, which includes Vanderbilt University’s student-run Shade Tree Clinic and Mercy Community Healthcare in Williamson County as partner service providers, provides free, direct legal services to low-income patients and their families, as well as training and education of health care professionals. Both Baptist Healing Trust and The HCA Foundation are providing support to the Middle Tennessee Medical-Legal Partnership to give critical assistance to low-income Tennesseans.

Jones is a 2013 graduate of Washington University School of Law in St. Louis. She also received her Master of Social Work from Washington University’s George Warren Brown School of Social Work. While receiving her advanced degrees, Jones worked as a legal intern and did her social work practicum at Legal Services of Eastern Missouri. Her undergraduate degree in History was earned at Brown University.

Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland advocates for fairness and justice under the law. The non-profit law firm offers free civil legal representation and educational programs to help people in its region receive justice, protect their well-being and support opportunities to overcome poverty. It serves 48 counties from offices in Clarksville, Columbia, Cookeville, Gallatin, Murfreesboro, Nashville, Oak Ridge and Tullahoma. Legal Aid Society is funded in part by United Way. Learn more at [www.las.org](http://www.las.org), or by following the firm on [Facebook](#).

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