

# **Tennessee Alliance for Legal Services**



Strengthening the Delivery of Civil Legal Help to Vulnerable Tennesseans

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## **LAS-Murfreesboro Office Re-Opens After Fire**

MURFREESBORO, Tenn., June 7, 2016 – Exactly one year after relocating its offices following a devastating fire, the Murfreesboro office of Legal Aid Society will welcome guests back to its original location at 526 North Walnut Street with a reception to celebrate the office’s reconstruction.

From 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. on June 14, the Murfreesboro office of Legal Aid Society will host a reception to thank the community for its support and celebrate the office’s resilience and longevity in Murfreesboro.

The Murfreesboro office of Legal Aid Society—which provides high-quality, free legal services and community education to those facing the loss of the basic necessities life—sustained extensive damage following a late-night fire on June 14, 2015. Officials determined that the cause of the fire was arson.

Just hours following the fire, Legal Aid Society moved its operations to a temporary location at 307 Hickerson Drive in Murfreesboro and continued to offer free legal advice, representation and legal clinics to low-income individuals and families in Rutherford and Cannon counties.

“The fire was certainly a trying time for our office, but the community has been a tremendous support to us over the past year,” said Andrae Crismon, managing attorney of Legal Aid Society’s Murfreesboro office. “Thanks to members of the local bar, volunteers and local organizations like United Way and Legal Lunch and Learn, we didn’t have to miss even one day serving our clients, who may not have had anywhere else to turn for free legal help.”

The Murfreesboro Legal Aid Society office stands in its original location, but staff and visitors will notice several changes, including additional office space and security improvements.

“With much of our building in ashes one year ago, we had an opportunity to redesign the feel and the functionality of our space,” said Aimee Luna, an attorney with Legal Aid Society’s Murfreesboro office. “We intentionally created more room for more volunteers who are eager to help us, and we made sure that our environment is welcoming, easy to navigate and safe for all of our clients and staff—all of which supports our greater mission.”

While insurance paid for some of the reconstruction costs, Legal Aid Society must still cover a

number of expenses associated with the office's reconstruction. For those interested in contributing, donations can be mailed to Legal Aid Society's Nashville office at 300 Deaderick St., Nashville, Tenn. 37201.

Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee and the Cumberland Mountains 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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Printed: October 25, 2020

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