

Nashville, TN (January 27, 2011) - Bass, Berry & Sims recently revised its pro bono policy to encourage its attorneys to provide more free legal services for low income and disadvantaged people. As of January 1, 2011, attorneys will receive billable hour credit for up to 50 hours per year of pro bono work. Billable hour credit is a significant component of the firm's bonus compensation policy for associate attorneys.

"We all have an obligation to make sure the legal system works, especially for the disadvantaged," states Managing Partner Keith Simmons. "Our first goal is to contribute to the welfare of the community. We want to make it as easy as possible for our attorneys to contribute their time to those in need."

Based on the priorities established by the Tennessee Supreme Court and the recommendations of the Court's Access to Justice Commission, Bass, Berry & Sims believed it was important to create more opportunities for attorneys to work on pro bono cases. The firm encourages all attorneys to meet or exceed the expectation of the American Bar Association and Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct that lawyers spend 50 hours each year engaged in pro bono work, primarily by providing direct representation to low income people.

Bass, Berry & Sims has a long-term commitment to pro bono work. Through a partnership with the National Veterans Legal Services Program, the firm represents military veterans who have been denied benefits by the Department of Veterans Affairs. The firm also receives cases from the Legal Aid Society of Middle Tennessee regarding prospective parents with limited financial means in adoptions. Attorneys and paralegals have also donated their time and expertise with the preparation of important documents such as advance care plans, healthcare directives, durable power of attorney forms, wills and other essential legal advice to seniors and women who otherwise would not have access to these resources.

**About Bass, Berry & Sims**

With more than 200 attorneys representing numerous publicly traded companies and Fortune 500 businesses, Bass, Berry & Sims has been involved in some of the largest and most significant litigation matters and business transactions in the country. For more information, visit [www.bassberry.com](http://www.bassberry.com).

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**Contact:**

Bass, Berry & Sims PLC

Ashley Howerton

615-259-6432

[ahowerton@bassberry.com](mailto:ahowerton@bassberry.com)