



155 Lafayette St., Nashville, TN 37210

Phone: (615) 255-0331 | Fax: (615) 255-0354 | Website: www.tnjustice.org

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 23rd, 2025

Media Contact: D'Anelle Desire
Director of Communications
Tennessee Justice Center
ddesire@tnjustice.org

Tennessee Justice Center Honors Selendy Gay PLLC and Elizabeth Marlowe with Pro Bono Awards

Nashville, TN – At the Tennessee Bar Association 2025 Annual Convention, the Tennessee Justice Center honored Selendy Gay PLLC and Elizabeth Marlowe as the 2025 Pro Bono Firm and Attorney of the Year.

Selendy Gay was honored for its work on the TennCare redetermination litigation, known as *A.M.C. v. Smith*, a class action in federal court. Selendy Gay stepped in, not for profit, not for prestige, but because it was the right thing to do. As pro bono counsel, they joined forces with TJC, the National Health Law Program, and the National Center for Law and Economic Justice to take on this critical fight.

The Selendy Gay team showed up ready and took ownership of key parts of the case—arguing motions, questioning witnesses, appearing before the magistrate, drafting briefs, and conducting depositions. Before trial, they transformed TJC's office into a war room, working through the night to make sure everything was ready.

As a result of Selendy Gay's efforts and the larger team, we won. The court ruled in favor of Plaintiffs on 9 of 15 class issues and ordered the parties into mediation to determine appropriate relief. The victory is a reaffirmation that due process matters, that disability rights matter, and that no one should lose access to healthcare because of bureaucratic failure.

Selendy Gay's work reminds us that the law can be a powerful tool for change, and that when wielded with integrity, it can restore dignity and hope to those who need it most.

TJC also honored pro bono superstar, Elizabeth Marlowe. Leaving the full-time practice of law a few years ago, Marlowe began volunteering with the Casework Team at the Tennessee Justice Center.

Marlowe has held various positions, assisting the Regional Council for Health and Human Services, prosecuting social security appeals in the 11th Circuit, and acting as general counsel for two tech companies. However, she spent most of her legal career in Georgia, her home state, largely working with working class people who faced life changing crises.

“I would urge anyone who is considering expanding their pro bono volunteering to consider putting in some time at TJC, even if it is just a few hours a month,” said Marlowe. “Out of everything I’ve done in my career, that was always the most satisfying, to run into one of my clients out in the wild with their families and see them thriving.”

She continues to serve Tennesseans in the same way, highlighting the many victories that contribute to her passion for service.

In the last two years Marlowe has helped 101 clients meet critical healthcare needs through her casework. “Most recently, an 83-year-old great grandmother client, who has been getting Home Based Choices care for the last eight years and suddenly found herself terminated because her income increased by \$40.”

For more information please contact D’Anelle Desire at ddesire@tnjustice.org.

Photos submitted by the Tennessee Justice Center.

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About Tennessee Justice Center / www.tnjustice.org

For over 28 years, the Tennessee Justice Center has been standing with vulnerable Tennessee families and helping them access basic necessities of life. Since opening our doors in 1996, TJC has used lawsuits, legislation and coalition building to overcome injustice, winning \$2 billion in health care and hundreds of millions in financial and nutrition assistance for Tennesseans. Aside from lawsuits, TJC helps assist seniors and other individuals with TennCare, SNAP, and other public benefit programs.