Greetings from Michael King
Chair, Board of Professional Responsibility

It has been a tremendous honor to serve as Chair of the Board of Professional Responsibility for the past three years. As my term on the board draws to a close, I want to thank the Supreme Court, my fellow board members, Disciplinary Counsel and staff, hearing committee members, Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program and the Administrative Office of the Courts for all their hard work and dedication. Additionally, I would like to thank the bar associations and other organizations, whose analysis and suggestions have played an integral part in our deliberations on opinions and proposed rule changes. The goal of the Board has always been to protect the public through the enforcement of the Court’s disciplinary rules and to assist the public, attorneys and judiciary by providing information and resources about the disciplinary process, rules and the judicial system in general. I want to thank everyone who sacrifices their time and lends their legal expertise to make that goal possible. The Board hopes that the information contained within this edition of Board Notes will be of assistance to all the groups we serve.
Update on National Task Force on Lawyer Well-Being

On August 14, 2017, the ABA’s Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs released a comprehensive report, “The Path to Lawyer Well-Being: Practical Recommendations for Positive Change,” aimed at addressing the problem of substance use and mental health disorders of lawyers. (Click here for full report.)

The Task Force was conceptualized and initiated by the ABA Commission on Lawyer Assistance Programs (CoLAP), the National Organization of Bar Counsel (NOBC), and the Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers (APRL) and was created in response to the 2016 landmark research that gathered national data regarding abuse, mental health issues and help-seeking behaviors of lawyers. (Click here for research findings.) Its participating entities currently include the following: ABA CoLAP; ABA Standing Committee on Professionalism; ABA Center for Professional Responsibility; ABA Young Lawyers Division; ABA Law Practice Division Attorney Wellbeing Committee; The National Organization of Bar Counsel; Association of Professional Responsibility Lawyers; National Conference of Chief Justices; and National Conference of Bar Examiners.

Laura McClendon, Executive Director of the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP) and current CoLAP Commissioner, was one of the peer reviewers of the report prior to it being released nationally. Ms. McClendon said “Tennessee is on the forefront of responding and addressing the concerns and recommendations in the report. It’s exciting to see the collaboration and conversations that have already started!”

The report’s recommendations focus on five central themes: (1) identifying stakeholders and the role each one has in reducing the level of toxicity in the profession, (2) eliminating the stigma associated with help-seeking behaviors, (3) emphasizing that well-being is an indispensable part of a lawyer’s duty of competence, (4) educating lawyers, judges, and law students on lawyer well-being issues, and (5) taking small, incremental steps to change how law is practiced and how lawyers are regulated to instill greater well-being in the profession.

The Tennessee Supreme Court, Administrative Office of the Courts, Board of Professional Responsibility, Board of Law Examiners, CLE Commission, and the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program have started round-table discussions with leaders from law firms, bar associations, and law schools to determine the best way to serve, support and help the legal community in Tennessee.
The Supreme Court Revises
Rule 9, § 32.1

On March 13, 2017, the Board of Professional Responsibility filed a petition asking the Court to amend Rule 9, Section 32 of the Rules of the Tennessee Supreme Court. The petition proposed amending the Rule to clarify that attorney disciplinary hearings are open to the public, unless subject to a protective order. On August 30, 2017, the Court granted the Board’s Petition. Click here to read more about this Rule change.
The Tennessee Supreme Court has affirmed a public reprimand for Knoxville attorney Danny C. Garland, II, based on his professional misconduct.

In 2014, the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility filed a petition for discipline against Mr. Garland. The petition alleged, in part, that while handling an adoption case, Mr. Garland failed to communicate appropriately with his clients, failed to exercise reasonable diligence in his representation, and committed professional misconduct. A hearing panel found that Mr. Garland had violated the Rules of Professional Conduct and recommended that he be publicly reprimanded. The hearing panel considered his misconduct in handling the adoption case, his prior disciplinary record, and his experience in the practice of law. Mr. Garland appealed to the Knox County Chancery Court, which affirmed the hearing panel’s decision. Mr. Garland appealed to the Supreme Court.

The Supreme Court affirmed the judgment of the trial court. In an opinion authored by Justice Sharon G. Lee, the Court held that Mr. Garland failed to keep his client reasonably informed about the status of the adoption case, failed to promptly comply with his client’s requests for information, and failed to act with diligence in his representation, thereby causing a lengthy delay in the resolution of the adoption. In particular, the Court found Mr. Garland’s firm policies, practices, and procedures for communicating with clients and monitoring case files to be ineffective. The Court upheld public censure as an appropriate sanction for Mr. Garland’s professional misconduct.

In a dissenting opinion, Justice Holly Kirby determined that the Board of Professional Responsibility should have proceeded against Mr. Garland under the rules governing a lawyer’s supervision of and responsibility for the conduct of his nonlawyer staff. Because the Board failed to do so, the hearing panel did not make the proper findings for review by the Supreme Court. [Click here to read the decision.]


On August 4, 2017, Paul Julius Walwyn, of Nashville, Tennessee, was suspended for one (1) year by order of the Tennessee Supreme Court, effective August 4, 2017. Six (6) months of the suspension is to be served as active suspension. The remainder of the suspension is to be served on probation with the conditions that Mr. Walwyn engage a practice monitor to supervise his office management procedures and that he complete an additional six (6) hours of continuing legal education on subjects related to the management of a law practice and/or client communication.

Mr. Walwyn was appointed to represent a defendant on appeal in a criminal case. He failed to file a notice of appeal. He waited three and one-half years before filing a motion to accept a late appeal. He did not adequately communicate with his client. Mr. Walwyn has been twice disciplined for similar misconduct in the past.

A hearing panel recommended that Mr. Walwyn be publicly censured, retain a practice monitor for one year and complete an additional six hours of continuing legal education on subjects related to the management of a law practice and/or client communication. Pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 15.4, the Supreme Court found that the hearing panel’s punishment was inadequate. It modified the judgment of the hearing panel as set forth above.

Mr. Walwyn’s ethical misconduct violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1, Competence; 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; and 8.4(a) and (d), Misconduct.

Mr. Walwyn must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys. Mr. Walwyn must pay the Board’s costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement. [Click here to read the decision.]
The Board of Professional Responsibility has been requested to issue a Formal Ethics Opinion regarding the opening and operation of a proposed interstate law firm, using a trade name, SETCO Law (the “Firm”).

**OPINION**

Interstate law firm partnerships are permitted if they comply with The Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct. Such interstate law firm partnerships may use a tradename if it complies with RPC 7.1 and RPC 7.5. Interstate law firm partnerships may lease space from a title company if there is a distinct separation between the law firm and the title company with regard to entry way, signage, letterhead, business cards, etc., and the customers of the law related services are advised that the protections of the client-lawyer relationship do not apply to the provision of the law related services of the title company, preferably in writing.

**INTRODUCTION**

The requesting lawyer proposes a 50%-50% partnership between a Tennessee Professional Services Corporation (PA) and a Florida Professional Services Corporation (PA) that will operate under a trade name, SETCO Law. The Florida PA will lease space from SETCO Services, a title company, for which the requesting lawyer is in-house counsel, in Destin, Florida. The Tennessee PA will lease space from another law firm, Brannon Law, located in Memphis, TN.

The proposed Firm will have a separate computer system, including secure email system, apart from SETCO Services and can only be accessed by employees of the Firm. The Firm will have its own logo which will be conspicuous within the building. All clients, before engagement with the Firm, will be provided with a written engagement letter that provides in detail that SETCO Law is an entity separate and apart from SETCO Services and Brannon Law and that engagement with the Firm is in no way tied to any affiliation with SETCO services or any services provided therefrom.
ISSUES

I. Do the Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct allow a partnership between a Tennessee Professional Services Corporation and a Florida Professional Services Corporation?

II. Can the partnership ethically use a trade name?

III. Can the Florida office of the partnership ethically lease space from SETCO Services, a title company?

DISCUSSION

I. Do the Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct allow a partnership between a Tennessee Professional Services Corporation and a Florida Professional Services Corporation?

“The growth, development and diversity of the legal profession have spawned a proliferation of new ways of conducting the practice which have taken lawyers far beyond the sole practitioner and single office law firm models of an earlier era. Today law firms operate in multiple cities, form networks or law firms under a common firm name or trade name, and join forces and pool resources in any number of business arrangements.”

“In the United States multi-jurisdictional law firm partnerships-formed by attorneys licensed to practice and physically located in more than one state-are accepted without question.” “The formation of partnerships between attorneys authorized to practice in different jurisdictions is not unethical.” Nothing in the Model Rules or the Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct would prohibit such a partnership so long as the partnership status is clearly disclosed to the clients, and the partnership complies with the Rules of Professional Conduct.

If several entities are held out as a single firm, then their lawyers must meet not only the obligations regarding preservation of confidences and avoidance of conflicts, but also those arising under rules that normally come into play only when lawyers are associated in the same firm. Those obligations and responsibilities include the partners making reasonable efforts to ensure that the firm has in effect measures giving reasonable assurance that all lawyers in the firm conform to the Rules of Professional Conduct.

5 Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 5.1(a).
II.

Can the partnership ethically use a trade name?

Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 7.5 recognizes that a trade name may be used, if it does not imply a connection with a government agency or with a public or charitable legal services organization, and the rule requires that such a trade name does not violate RPC 7.1 which prohibits lawyers from making false or misleading communications about the lawyer or the lawyer’s services.  

If a law firm licenses its name to another firm, it must in fact, operate as a single firm and shall be treated as a single firm for all purposes under the Model Rules, Lawyers may state or imply that they practice in a partnership or other organization only when that is the fact.  

“A law firm with offices in more than one jurisdiction may use the same name or other professional designation in each jurisdiction, but identification of the lawyers in an office of the firm shall indicate the jurisdictional limitations on those not licensed to practice in the jurisdiction where the office is located.”

III.

Can the Florida office of the partnership ethically lease space from SETCO Services, a title company?

No ethical rules restrict the location of the office of a lawyer. Nothing prevents a lawyer from entering into a landlord-tenant relationship and having an office in the same building as a land title company.

Tennessee Formal Ethics Opinion 82-F-34, based on the prior Code section DR 2-102(E) which has been carried into RPC 5.7, holds that “The Code of Professional Responsibility would not necessarily prohibit a real estate closing business from being located in the same building as the law firm. However, the divorcement between the offices must be sincere and complete with no common use of stationary, cards, announcements, names on doors, etc.” The Tennessee Opinion was based on ABA Formal Opinion 328 which held that a lawyer may practice law and conduct a law related business from the same office as long as all the provisions of the Code of Professional Responsibility, are complied with, particularly DR 2-102(E).

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6 Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 7.5 (a).
9 Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 7.5 (d).
10 Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 7.5 (b).
12 Tennessee Formal Ethics Opinion 82-F-34 at page 1.
This is because the real estate title company provides law related services as defined in RPC 5.7(b) “The term ‘law-related’ services’ denotes services that might reasonably be performed in conjunction with and in substance are related to the provision of legal services, and that are not prohibited as unauthorized practice of law when provided by a nonlawyer.”¹³

A real estate title company provides a law related service and therefore lawyers must adhere to RPC 5.7(a) with regard to their responsibilities regarding law related services.

“A lawyer shall be subject to the Rules of Professional Conduct with respect to the provision of law-related services, (1) if the law related services are provided in circumstances that are not distinct from the lawyer’s provision of legal services to clients; or (2) in other circumstances by an entity controlled by the lawyer individually or with others if the lawyer fails to take reasonable measures to assure that a person obtaining the law related services knows that the services are not legal services and that the protections of the client-lawyer relationship do not exist.”¹⁴

“Law related services may be provided through an entity that is distinct from that through which the lawyer provides legal services. If the lawyer individually or with others has control of such an entity’s operations the Rule requires the lawyer to take reasonable measures to assure that each person using the services of the entity knows that the services provided by the entity are not legal services and that the Rules of Professional Conduct that relate to the client-lawyer relationship do not apply. A lawyer’s control of an entity extends to the ability to direct its operation. Whether a lawyer has such control will depend upon the circumstances of the particular case.”¹⁵

The lawyer should communicate in writing to the person using the law-related service the significance of the fact that the provision of the law related service will not create a client-lawyer relationship. The communication should be made prior to an agreement to provide the law related services and should preferably be in writing.¹⁶ “The burden is on the lawyer to show that the lawyer has taken reasonable measures under the circumstances to communicate the desired understanding.”¹⁷

¹³ Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 5.7(b).
¹⁴ Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 5.7(a).
¹⁵ Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 5.7 comment [4].
¹⁶ Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 5.7 comment [6].
¹⁷ Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 8, RPC 5.7 comment [7].
CONCLUSION

The Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct permit interstate law firm partnerships that comply with the rules. Such interstate law firm partnerships may use a tradename if it complies with RPC 7.1 and RPC 7.5. Interstate law firm partnerships may lease space from a title company if there is a distinct separation from the law firm with regard to entry way, signage, letterhead, business cards, etc., and the customers of the law related services are advised that the protections of the client-lawyer relationship do not apply to the provision of the law related services of the title company, preferably in writing. The proposed interstate partnership appears to comply with these requirements. It is incumbent upon SETCO Services to make it clear that persons using the law related services that it provides understand that it is separate and apart from the Firm leasing space and that the law related services do not create a client-lawyer relationship with the Firm.

This _____day of_________, 2017.

ETHICS COMMITTEE:

________________________
Bridget Willhite, chair

________________________
Ruth Ellis

________________________
Jimmie Miller

APPROVED AND ADOPTED BY THE BOARD
The Tennessee Supreme Court regulates and supervises the practice of law in Tennessee pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9. The Court appoints twelve members to the Board of Professional Responsibility (the Board) to effectuate Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 and the Court’s disciplinary enforcement.

The Board consists of nine (9) attorneys and three (3) public (non-attorney) members who serve three-year terms and geographically represent the entire state. In 2016-2017, Board members volunteered 1,019 hours and received no compensation for their service. Current members of the Board include:

- Michael King (Chair)
- Joe Riley (Vice-Chair)
- Kenneth Blackburn (Lay Member)
- Dana Dye
- Ruth Ellis
- Odell Horton, Jr.
- John D. Kitch
- Joe Looney
- Jon Lundberg (Lay Member)
- Jimmie Miller
- Tyreece Miller (Lay Member)
- Bridget Willhite

The Court appoints a Chief Disciplinary Counsel who reports to the Board. The Board also employs attorneys as Disciplinary Counsel and support staff to assist with attorney registration; consumer assistance; investigation and litigation. A staff directory is attached as Exhibit A.

District Committee Members

The Tennessee Supreme Court appoints attorneys to serve as district committee members from each disciplinary district in the state. In 2016-2017, 168 attorneys assisted the Court and the Board as district committee members reviewing Disciplinary Counsel’s recommendations on investigative files and sitting on hearing panels conducting formal disciplinary charges. Of the 168 members, 159 reported volunteering 2,463 hours in 2016-2017 for which they received no compensation for their services. A roster of current district committee members is attached as Exhibit B.
Assistance, Investigation and Prosecution

- Consumer Assistance Program (CAP)

Non-frivolous complaints against attorneys submitted by clients, lawyers, judges and the public are referred to the Board’s Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) for assistance or opened and assigned to Disciplinary Counsel for investigation. CAP answers questions, provides information, informally mediates disputes, and refers matters to Disciplinary Counsel for investigation.

Caseload

| Number of Cases Opened | 2,676 |

Timeliness of Resolution

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Duration</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 to 15 days</td>
<td>46.0%</td>
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<tr>
<td>16 to 30 days</td>
<td>14.9%</td>
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<td>31 to 60 days</td>
<td>17.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>61 or more days</td>
<td>21.9%</td>
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Actions Taken

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Action</th>
<th>Percentage</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mediate</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advise</td>
<td>44%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Referrals</td>
<td>15%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Provide Information</td>
<td>7%</td>
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</table>

- Investigation

Disciplinary Counsel investigate complaints alleging unethical conduct. After investigation, Disciplinary Counsel recommend dismissal of the complaint if there is insufficient proof of a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct. If the investigated complaint reflects a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, Disciplinary Counsel recommend diversion, private informal admonition, private reprimand, public censure, or the filing of formal disciplinary charges. A district committee member reviews and approves or disapproves Disciplinary Counsel’s recommendation for dismissal, diversion, and private informal admonition. The Board of Professional Responsibility reviews and approves or disapproves Disciplinary Counsel’s recommendation for private reprimand, public censure, and the filing of formal disciplinary charges.
A. Nature of Complaints

- Neglect or Failure to Communicate: 57%
- Relationship with Client or Court: 10%
- Personal Behavior: 2%
- Other: 1%
- Trust Violations: 8%
- Conflict of Interest: 3%
- Criminal Convictions: 3%
- Improper Communications: 4%
- Misrepresentation or Fraud: 8%

B. Investigative Complaint Caseload

- Complaints Received: 1,552
- Complaints Pending at beginning of Fiscal Year: 610
- Total Complaints: 2,162
C. Investigative Complaint Disposition:

- Administrative Dismissals: 510
- Investigative Dismissals: 504
- Diversions: 30
- Private Informal Admonitions: 60
- Private Reprimands: 35
- Informal Public Censures: 46
- Transfer to Disability Inactive: 46
- Placed on Retired Status: 13
- Other: 18

Total: 1,254

Formal Disciplinary Proceedings:

After the Board of Professional Responsibility authorizes Disciplinary Counsel to file formal disciplinary charges (i.e., a petition for discipline) against an attorney, the matter is assigned to three district committee members who constitute a hearing panel. The Hearing Panel sets the disciplinary proceeding for a hearing which is open to the public unless a protective order has been entered. The Tennessee Rules of Evidence and Rules of Civil Procedure apply unless Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 provides otherwise.

The Board of Professional Responsibility must prove an attorney’s ethical misconduct by a preponderance of the evidence. Hearing Panels may recommend dismissal, public censure, suspension or disbarment.

A. Caseload

- Formal cases filed during Fiscal Year: 136
- Formal cases pending at beginning of Fiscal Year: 109

Total formal proceedings: 245

- Public hearings conducted in Fiscal Year: 55

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18 Abated by death; complaint withdrawn; duplicate file.
B. Formal Disciplinary Proceedings Disposition:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Type</th>
<th>Number</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Dismissals</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public Censures</td>
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<td>Suspensions</td>
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<tr>
<td>Disbarments</td>
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<tr>
<td>Transfer to Disability Inactive</td>
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<tr>
<td>Temporary Suspensions</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Retired</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reinstatements</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other&lt;sup&gt;19&lt;/sup&gt;</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>131</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<sup>19</sup> Abated by death; voluntary non-suited; denied; withdrawn.
Non-disciplinary/Administrative Suspensions:

Pursuant to Supreme Court Rules, the Supreme Court suspends attorneys who fail to pay their annual fee (Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 § 10.6); fail to complete annual continuing legal education requirements (Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 21 § 7); fail to comply with Interest on Lawyers Trust Account requirements (Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 43 § 15); fail to pay the Tennessee professional privilege tax (Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 § 26); or default on student loans (Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 § 37). No attorney suspended pursuant to these Rules may resume practice until reinstated by Order of the Supreme Court. Attorneys were administratively suspended during fiscal year 2016-2017 as follows:

- Non-payment of Annual Fee: 40
- Continuing Legal Education non-compliance: 112
- Interest on Lawyer’s Trust Accounts non-compliance: 54
- Professional Privilege Tax non-compliance: 0
- Default on a Student Loan: 1
- Total: 207

Current Number of Tennessee Attorneys

- Active Attorneys: 22,832
- Inactive Attorneys: 4,560
- Pro hac vice Attorneys: 690

*Attorneys not included in this chart: Inactive attorneys (4,560); Pro hac vice attorneys (690).
Education and Information

The Board issues Formal Ethics Opinions and staff respond to informal ethics questions by phone and internet. Disciplinary Counsel present continuing legal education seminars, publish Board Notes, a bi-annual newsletter, and update the Board’s website with rule changes, disciplinary decisions and news for attorneys, judges and the public.

A. Ethics Opinions

i. Informal Opinions

Ethics Counsel and Disciplinary Counsel responded to 2,408 phone and internet inquiries from attorneys seeking ethical guidance.\(^20\)

ii. Formal Opinions

2016-F-161: To the extent settlement provisions require attorneys to turn over documents protected by the lawyer work product doctrine, the provisions may be prohibited by Tennessee Rule of Professional Conduct 5.6(b). That is, a lawyer may not propose or agree to a settlement agreement that requires a lawyer to turn over any work product materials as part of the settlement if that action will restrict his representation of other clients.

2017-F-162: The Board of Professional Responsibility has been requested by the State of Tennessee Bureau of Workers’ Compensation Department of Labor and Workforce Development to issue a Formal Ethics Opinion regarding the extent to which an ombudsman attorney may provide “limited legal advice” within the meaning of Tenn. Code Ann. Section 50-6-216(e)(3) which provides that “[a]n ombudsman who is not a licensed attorney shall not provide legal advice however, an ombudsman who is a licensed attorney may provide limited legal advice but shall not represent any party as the party’s attorney. No ombudsman shall make attorney referrals.”

B. Continuing Legal Education (CLE) Presentations:

Between July 1, 2016 and June 30, 2017, Disciplinary Counsel presented fifty-one (51) CLE seminars, attended by approximately 2,967 attorneys.

\(^{20}\)Tennessee attorneys may submit ethics inquiries to the Board by calling 615-361-7500, ext. 212, or via the Board’s website at www.tbpr.org.
C.  *Board Notes:*

In 2016-2017, the Board emailed both Fall and Spring issues of *Board Notes*, the Board’s semi-annual newsletter to all attorneys and judges and published it on the Board’s website.

### Board of Professional Responsibility
#### Staff Directory

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Name</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Extension</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Kevin Balkwill</td>
<td>Disciplinary Counsel</td>
<td>223</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Carol Bershatsky</td>
<td>Receptionist</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Patty Burton</td>
<td>Assistant Director</td>
<td>216</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Melanie Cail</td>
<td>Legal Assistant - Litigation</td>
<td>237</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Laura Chastain</td>
<td>Ethics Counsel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Steve Christopher</td>
<td>Disciplinary Counsel</td>
<td>203</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sandy Garrett</td>
<td>Chief Disciplinary Counsel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Reynolds Gaulden, Jr.</td>
<td>Registration Assistant II</td>
<td>244</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Elizabeth Gray</td>
<td>Administrative Assistant – Registration and Scanning</td>
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<tr>
<td>Candis Grooms</td>
<td>Case Manager</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kelly Heflin</td>
<td>Legal Assistant - Investigations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Krisann Hodges</td>
<td>Deputy Chief Disciplinary Counsel</td>
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<tr>
<td>Alan Johnson</td>
<td>Disciplinary Counsel</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Soumya Kademakki</td>
<td>Lead Legal Assistant - Investigations</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cheryl Lang</td>
<td>Administrative Scan Clerk</td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mary McKnight</td>
<td>Registration Manager</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bill Moody</td>
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<tr>
<td>Dana Patrick</td>
<td>Paralegal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Tony Pros</td>
<td>Network Administrator</td>
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<tr>
<td>Suzanne Saucer</td>
<td>Lead Legal Assistant - Litigation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Jessica Schraw</td>
<td>CAP Paralegal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beverly Sharpe</td>
<td>Director of Consumer Assistance Program</td>
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<td>Preston Shipp</td>
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<td>Suzie Thurber</td>
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<tr>
<td>Beverly Yousefzadeh</td>
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# 36th Annual Discipline Report

**Fiscal Year July 1, 2016 – June 30, 2017**

## District Committee Members

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>District</th>
<th>Last Name</th>
<th>First Name</th>
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<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Canter</td>
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<td>Charles</td>
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EDYTHE PASCHALL CHRISTIE, BPR #17920
GIBSON COUNTY

On June 23, 2017, the Tennessee Supreme Court disbarred Edythe (“Didi”) Paschall Christie, of Gibson County, Tennessee, from the practice of law. Ms. Christie consented to disbarment because she could not successfully defend charges filed against her with the Board of Professional Responsibility based upon her criminal conviction for the offense of Tampering with Evidence, in the matter of State of Tennessee v. Edythe Christie, in the Circuit Court of Madison County, Tennessee. The Board initiated formal proceedings against Ms. Christie following her suspension on September 2, 2015, Pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 22. Ms. Christie’s actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 8.4(a), (b), (c) and (d).

Ms. Christie must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 and 19, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

JOHN JAY CLARK, BPR #24360
WILLIAMSON COUNTY

On August 9, 2017, John Jay Clark was disbarred by the Tennessee Supreme Court. The disbarment took effect immediately. Mr. Clark must pay the Board of Professional Responsibility’s costs and expenses and court costs within ninety days.

On November 2, 2016, the Tennessee Supreme Court summarily suspended John Jay Clark from the practice of law pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 22.3 based upon Mr. Clark’s conviction for forgery. On November 22, 2016, the Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Final Petition for Discipline to determine the extent of Mr. Clark’s discipline.

Mr. Clark’s convictions arose from his representation of two clients in uncontested divorce cases. Mr. Clark prepared final decrees for his clients and forged the signature of the judge. He then gave the final decrees to his clients leading them to believe they were divorced. In one case, the spouse of Mr. Clark’s client re-married based upon his belief that he was divorced. Mr. Clark is ordered to pay restitution to three (3) victims of his crime in the total amount of $3,322.00. Mr. Clark’s conduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 8.4 (a), (b), and (c) (Misconduct).

In an unrelated case, Mr. Clark was previously disbarred on December 14, 2016. To date, Mr. Clark has not been reinstated from his previous disbarment.
DISBARMENTS (continued)

Mr. Clark must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and may not return to the active practice of law until an order of reinstatement has been entered by the Supreme Court.

RICHARD KENT HARRIS, BPR #629
TEXAS

On June 16, 2017, Richard Kent Harris, of Montgomery, Texas, was disbarred by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court effective immediately.

The Tennessee Supreme Court suspended Mr. Harris on April 28, 2017, pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 22.3, based upon his guilty plea to conspiracy to commit bankruptcy fraud. The Board of Professional Responsibility instituted a formal proceeding to determine the extent of final discipline to be imposed. In addition, Mr. Harris engaged in the unauthorized practice of law while suspended for non-payment of the annual registration fee. Mr. Harris entered a conditional guilty plea agreeing to disbarment.

Mr. Harris’ actions violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 5.5(a) (unauthorized practice of law) and 8.4(a) (misconduct) and Texas Disciplinary Rules of Professional Conduct 5.05(a) (unauthorized practice of law) and 8.4(3) (misconduct).

Mr. Harris must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys. Mr. Harris must pay the Board’s costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

WESLEY LYNN HATMAKER, BPR #14880
CAMPBELL COUNTY

On August 10, 2017, Wesley Lynn Hatmaker, of Jacksboro, Tennessee, was disbarred from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. In addition, Mr. Hatmaker must make restitution as a condition of his reinstatement. The order is effective August 10, 2017. Mr. Hatmaker must pay the Board’s costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

Mr. Hatmaker misappropriated client funds, failed to communicate with and diligently represent clients, failed to properly terminate his relationship with clients, practiced law while temporarily suspended and failed to respond to requests for information from the Board. Mr. Hatmaker pled guilty to four counts of theft over $60,000 and two counts of theft over $10,000.

Mr. Hatmaker’s ethical misconduct violates Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3, Diligence; 1.4(a), Communication; 1.15(a) and (d), Safekeeping Property and Funds; 1.16(d), Declining and Terminating Representation; 5.5(a), Unauthorized Practice of Law; 8.1(b), Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4(a), (b), (c) and (g), Misconduct.
DISBARMENTS (continued)

On October 3, 2016, Mr. Hatmaker was disbarred for misappropriating funds from clients, and failing to communicate with and diligently represent clients. That disbarment remains in effect.

Mr. Hatmaker must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.

THOMAS HOLLAND MCKINNIE, JR., BPR #15580
DAVIDSON COUNTY

On June 30, 2017, the Tennessee Supreme Court disbarred Davidson County lawyer, Thomas Holland McKinnie, from the practice of law and ordered that he pay restitution as a condition of reinstatement. Mr. McKinnie must pay the Board of Professional Responsibility’s costs and expenses and court costs within ninety days of entry of the Order.

On September 23, 2016, a Petition for Discipline was filed against Mr. McKinnie alleging that he misappropriated funds from a trust that he prepared for the benefit of a minor child. Over a period of two years Mr. McKinnie wrote checks to himself from the trust account in the total amount of $196,469.05. Mr. McKinnie closed the trust account on October 9, 2014, after the funds had been depleted. In January of 2015, Mr. McKinnie failed to pay the school tuition beneficiary, which resulted in the termination of the child’s enrollment. Mr. McKinnie did not file a response, and a default judgment was entered against him.

The Hearing Panel found that Mr. McKinnie violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 8.4(a) (b) and (c), (misconduct).

Mr. McKinnie must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys, and the procedure for reinstatement.

EVERETT HOGE MECHEM, BPR #11854
SULLIVAN COUNTY

Effective April 28, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee disbarred Everett Hoge Mechem from the practice of law based upon his felony conviction for violating Title 18, United States Code, Section 1343: Wire Fraud; Title 42, United States Code, Section 1383a(a)(3): Supplemental Security Income Fraud; Title 18, United States Code Section, 1001: False Statement, and Title 18, United States Code, Section 641: Theft of Public Money. Mr. Mechem is required to pay the Board’s costs and court costs in this matter.

Mr. Mechem’s conduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 8.4(b) and (c) (Misconduct).

Mr. Mechem must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and may not return to the active practice of law until an order of reinstatement has been entered by the Supreme Court.
DISBARMENTS (continued)

TIMOTHY ALLEN PRICE, BPR #21652
SHELBY COUNTY

On August 25, 2017, the Tennessee Supreme Court disbarred Timothy Allen Price from the practice of law pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.1. Mr. Price must pay the Board of Professional Responsibility’s costs and expenses and court costs within ninety days. The Board filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Price that included one complaint. Mr. Price prepared a fraudulent divorce decree and misrepresented to his client that she was divorced. She did not learn of the fraud until six years later.

The Hearing Panel found that Mr. Price violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1, (Competence); 1.3, (Diligence); 1.4, (Communication); 1.5, (Unreasonable fee); 3.2, (Expediting litigation); 8.1, (Disciplinary matters); and 8.4(c) and (d), (Conduct involving fraud and conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice).

Mr. Price must pay restitution to his client as a condition of reinstatement to the practice of law. In an unrelated case, Mr. Price was suspended from the practice of law for two years on July 18, 2011. To date, Mr. Price has not been reinstated from his previous suspension.

Mr. Price must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and may not return to the active practice of law until an order of reinstatement has been entered by the Supreme Court.

SUSPENSIONS

STEPHEN CHRISTOPHER BROOKS, BPR #20439
MADISON COUNTY

On July 25, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an order suspending Stephen Christopher Brooks from the practice of law for a period of five (5) years, pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.2. Mr. Brooks must pay the costs incurred in the disciplinary proceeding to the Board of Professional Responsibility.

On September 29, 2015, a Petition for Discipline was filed against Mr. Brooks based upon Mr. Brooks’ guilty plea to violations of TCA §39-17-418, Simple Possession, Schedule II, Cocaine and violation of TCA §39-17-425, Possession of Paraphernalia, in the Circuit Court for Madison County, Tennessee. The Petition for Discipline included one (1) complaint alleging commission of a criminal act, conduct involving dishonesty, conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice, failure to comply with a final court order and violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

A hearing was conducted before a Hearing Panel on May 18, 2016, and the Hearing Panel recommended that Mr. Brooks be suspended for three (3) years, with six (6) months served as an active suspension and the remainder on probation subject to compliance with a Tennessee Lawyers Assistance
SUSPENSIONS (continued)

Program (TLAP) Monitoring Agreement, and with the conditions of probation imposed by the criminal court. Thereafter, Mr. Brooks violated his probation and failed to comply with his Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Monitoring Agreement. Another Hearing was conducted before the Hearing Panel on March 17, 2017. After a full evidentiary hearing, the Hearing Panel recommended that Mr. Brooks be suspended from the practice of law for five (5) years.

Mr. Brooks’ ethical misconduct violates Rules of Professional Conduct 8.4 (a), (b), (c), (d) and (g), Misconduct.

Mr. Brooks must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and may not return to the active practice of law until an order of reinstatement has been entered by the Supreme Court.

JOHN WILBUR CASTLEMAN, JR., BPR #23551
WAYNE COUNTY

On June 30, 2017, John Wilbur Castleman, Jr., of Waynesboro, Tennessee, was suspended for one (1) year and one (1) day, effective immediately. In addition, Mr. Castleman must make restitution to one client in the amount of $500; obtain an evaluation from the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP) within thirty (30) days and, if TLAP determines a monitoring agreement is appropriate, comply with its terms; and pay the Board’s costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

Mr. Castleman was administratively suspended on July 16, 2015, for noncompliance with the mandatory IOLTA reporting requirement and non-payment of the annual registration fee. On July 20, 2015, Mr. Castleman was paid a $500 refundable retainer by a client. Mr. Castleman did not deposit the retainer to his trust account. Mr. Castleman did not refund the unearned fee to the client. After learning of his suspension, Mr. Castleman met with the client in order to prepare for a hearing. Mr. Castleman did not notify his clients of his suspension. Instead, he wrote a number of his clients a misleading letter in an effort to explain his absence from the office without advising them of his suspension. Mr. Castleman also failed to respond to a request for information from the Board.

Mr. Castleman’s ethical misconduct violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4(a), Communication; 1.15(c), Safekeeping Property and Funds; 1.16(d), Declining and Terminating Representation; 5.5(a), Unauthorized Practice of Law; 8.1(b), Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4(a), (c) and (g), Misconduct.

Mr. Castleman must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys, and the procedure for reinstatement.
SUSPENSIONS (continued)

HOMER L. CODY, BPR #10755  
SHELBY COUNTY

On August 11, 2017, Homer L. Cody of Memphis, Tennessee was suspended for two years by the Tennessee Supreme Court effective immediately. Further, Mr. Cody must pay the Board of Professional Responsibility’s costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days.

Mr. Cody represented the plaintiffs in a lawsuit wherein the judge found that Mr. Cody had a conflict of interest. The court disqualified Mr. Cody from continuing to represent the plaintiffs. Mr. Cody was ordered to refrain from filing any other pleadings on behalf of the plaintiffs. The judge dismissed the plaintiffs’ case. When two of the plaintiffs appealed, Mr. Cody circumvented the court’s order by writing two appellate briefs for those plaintiffs who then signed and filed the briefs as if they were not represented by an attorney. For this, Mr. Cody was suspended by the Tennessee Supreme Court for one year on July 27, 2016, in a prior disciplinary case. Mr. Cody prepared three more appellate briefs for the same plaintiffs who again signed and filed the briefs as if they were not represented by an attorney leading to the present case. A Hearing Panel found Mr. Cody’s actions violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct: 3.4(c), Fairness to Opposing Party, and 8.4(a), (c) and (d), Misconduct.

Mr. Cody must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

DON W. COOPER, BPR #1286  
SULLIVAN COUNTY

On August 18, 2017, the Tennessee Supreme Court suspended Don W. Cooper from the practice of law until further orders of the Court pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 22.3. Mr. Cooper was suspended based upon entering “best interest” pleas to ten counts of a serious crime; i.e., theft.

Mr. Cooper was previously disbarred by the Supreme Court on February 23, 2017. The Supreme Court ordered the Board to institute a new formal proceeding to determine the extent of final discipline to be imposed as a result of Mr. Cooper’s pleas.

Mr. Cooper must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 28, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

CHARLES DAVID DEAS, BPR #2049  
BLOUNT COUNTY

Effective April 17, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee suspended Charles David Deas from the practice of law for a period of six (6) months with sixty (60) days to be served as an active suspension and the remainder served on probation, pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 14.1, and ordered to pay the Board’s costs. Mr. Deas was further ordered to contact the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP) for potential monitoring and comply with any recommendations. Upon satisfaction of all
SUSPENSIONS (continued)

conditions and the entry of an order of reinstatement by the Supreme Court, Mr. Deas may resume the practice of law.

On May 9, 2016, a Petition for Discipline was filed against Mr. Deas based upon his self-report of his arrest on June 10, 2014, for driving under the influence and possession of a firearm while intoxicated, and his subsequent misdemeanor conviction on January 8, 2016, for obstructing a roadway and possession of a firearm while intoxicated. A Hearing Panel determined Mr. Deas’ conduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 8.4(b).

Mr. Deas must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

ROBERT ALLEN DOLL, III, BPR #22764
DAVIDSON COUNTY

On May 31, 2017, the Tennessee Supreme Court suspended Robert Allen Doll, III, from the practice of law until further orders of the Court pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 22.3. Mr. Doll was suspended based upon being found guilty by a jury of serious crimes; i.e., subornation of aggravated perjury and criminal simulation.

The Supreme Court ordered the Board to institute a formal proceeding to determine the extent of final discipline to be imposed as a result of Mr. Doll being found guilty.

Mr. Doll must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 28, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

S. BRAD DOZIER, BPR #24959
WILLIAMSON COUNTY

On June 20, 2017, S. Brad Dozier was suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for two (2) years, with thirty (30) days active suspension and the remainder on probation. The suspension is to take effect immediately. As conditions of his suspension, Mr. Dozier must engage a practice monitor, undergo an evaluation by Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP) and enter into a monitoring agreement if deemed appropriate by TLAP, and commit no further acts of misconduct resulting in a recommendation of discipline. Mr. Dozier must pay the Board’s costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

In the representation of six (6) clients, Mr. Dozier failed to act with diligence in handling client matters and failed to adequately communicate with the clients. In one matter, he failed to deposit an unearned fee in a trust account.

Mr. Dozier’s ethical misconduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.15, Safekeeping Property and Funds; and 8.4, Misconduct.
SUSPENSIONS (continued)

Mr. Dozier must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

JOHN MARTIN DRAKE, BPR #30532
DAVIDSON COUNTY

Effective April 28, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee suspended John Martin Drake from the practice of law for two (2) years pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.2, and referred Mr. Drake to Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP).

Mr. Drake, while suspended from the practice of law, knowingly and intentionally made a series of telephone calls to the Bledsoe County Correctional Complex identifying himself as an attorney and representing himself as the attorney for an inmate at the facility. By these acts, Mr. Drake violated Rules of Professional Conduct 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law), 8.1(b) (bar admissions and disciplinary matters) and 8.4(b) and (c) (misconduct).

On August 19, 2015, Mr. Drake was summarily suspended from the practice of law (Case No. ADM2015-00050) for failure to comply with Continuing Legal Education requirements and that suspension remains in effect.

Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Drake must comply in all aspects with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

PATRICIA STOLINSKY GRAVES, BPR #26617
WILSON COUNTY

On June 21, 2017, the Tennessee Supreme Court suspended Patricia Stolinsky Graves from the practice of law for five (5) years pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.2. Ms. Graves must pay restitution to seventeen former clients as a condition of reinstatement to the practice of law. Ms. Graves must pay the Board of Professional Responsibility’s costs and expenses and court costs within ninety days.

On November 16, 2015, the Board filed a Petition for Discipline against Ms. Graves. On February 23, 2016, the Board filed a Supplemental Petition for Discipline against Ms. Graves. On October 3, 2016, the Board filed a Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline against Ms. Graves. Ms. Graves entered a Conditional Guilty Plea which included six additional investigative files admitting her misconduct.

The allegations in the Petitions for Discipline and the six (6) investigative files include overdrafts of Respondent’s IOLTA account and failure to maintain proper records of the IOLTA account, lack of competence, diligence and communication, excessive fees, improper termination, failure to expedite litigation, lack of candor toward a tribunal, unauthorized practice of law, dishonesty, conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice, and failure to comply with court orders.
SUSPENSIONS (continued)

Ms. Graves’ misconduct violates Rules of Professional Conduct 1.2, Scope of Representation; 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.5, Fees; 1.15, Safekeeping Property; 1.16, Declining and Terminating Representation; 3.2, Expediting Litigation; 3.3, Candor Toward the Tribunal; 3.4, Fairness to Opposing Party; 5.5, Unauthorized Practice of Law; 8.1, Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4, Misconduct.

Ms. Graves must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 28 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

RICHARD KENT HARRIS, BPR #629
TEXAS

On April 28, 2017, the Tennessee Supreme Court suspended Richard Kent Harris from the practice of law until further orders of the Court pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 22.3. Mr. Harris was suspended based upon his guilty plea to a serious crime; i.e., conspiracy to commit bankruptcy fraud.

The Supreme Court ordered the Board of Professional Responsibility to institute a formal proceeding to determine the extent of final discipline to be imposed as a result of Mr. Harris’ guilty plea. On November 23, 2015, Mr. Harris was administratively suspended by the Tennessee Supreme Court for failure to pay the annual registration fee. That suspension remains in effect.

Mr. Harris must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 28, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

DARRYL WAYNE HUMPHREY, BPR #16471
SHELBY COUNTY

Effective September 25, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an order suspending Darryl Wayne Humphrey from the practice of law for a period of six (6) months, pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.2, and requiring Mr. Humphrey to pay the cost of the disciplinary proceeding.

A Petition for Discipline was filed April 10, 2017, and a Supplemental Petition for Discipline was filed August 14, 2017, alleging Mr. Humphrey engaged in the unauthorized practice of law and failed to communicate with and diligently represent his clients.

Mr. Humphrey executed a Conditional Guilty Plea admitting he was administratively suspended September 29, 2015, and thereafter, participated in a telephone conference with the trial court and opposing counsel, participated in mediation, executed and filed a marital dissolution agreement and final decree of divorce, continued as counsel of record in five (5) cases despite his suspension, and actively practiced in four (4) of those cases. Prior to his administrative suspension, Mr. Humphrey failed to diligently represent a client and file a motion to amend a previous custody order entered by the court.
Mr. Humphrey’s conduct violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence); 1.4 (communication); 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law); and 8.4 (a)(b)(c)(d) (misconduct). Mr. Humphrey’s Summary Suspension Order entered September 29, 2015, remains in effect.

Mr. Humphrey must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

JAMES LESTER KENNEDY, BPR #5453
KNOX COUNTY

On July 20, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an order suspending James Lester Kennedy from the practice of law for a period of one (1) year, pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.2. Mr. Kennedy must pay the Board’s costs and expenses within ninety days of the entry of the Order.

Mr. Kennedy served as the executor of an estate that was opened in 1987. In 2009, approximately twenty-two (22) years after the estate was opened, the beneficiaries discovered that the estate had not been closed; that Mr. Kennedy had ignored repeated orders by the Court to appear and settle; and in 2000, the Court had retired the case due to inactivity. After repeated failures to comply with court orders to provide an accounting, the Court found Mr. Kennedy in contempt and removed him as executor.

The hearing panel found that Mr. Kennedy’s conduct violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1, (competence), 1.3 (diligence), 3.4 (fairness to opposing party and counsel) and 8.4 (misconduct).

Mr. Kennedy must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and may not return to the active practice of law until an order of reinstatement has been entered by the Supreme Court.

PETER M. NAPOLITANO, BPR #21240
MONTGOMERY

On May 24, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an order suspending Peter M. Napolitano from the practice of law for a period of five (5) years, with probation after a period of one (1) year, conditioned upon payment of $7,500.00 restitution to a client and payment to the Board for all costs in the disciplinary proceeding. In addition, the Court conditioned any reinstatement of Mr. Napolitano to the practice of law after the one (1) year active suspension period upon the appointment of a practice monitor pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.9 (2016) to supervise compliance with trust accounting rules and accounting procedures. Finally, the Court required Mr. Napolitano to perform one hundred (100) hours of public service work for each year of his probation. The Court affirmed the decision of the hearing panel, finding Mr. Napolitano misappropriated his client’s money, failed to maintain disputed funds in his trust account, and testified falsely under oath on three occasions. Pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18.6 (2006), the suspension is effective June 3, 2017.
**SUSPENSIONS (continued)**

Mr. Napolitano’s conduct violated Tennessee Rules of Professional conduct 1.15(a), (b) and (c) (2003); 1.15(a), (d) and (e) (2011) and 8.4(c) (2012).

Mr. Napolitano must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and may not return to the active practice of law until an order of reinstatement has been entered by the Supreme Court.

**JERE FRANKLIN OWNBY, III, BPR #14979
KNOX COUNTY**

Effective July 7, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee suspended Jere Franklin Ownby, III from the practice of law for a period of one (1) year with thirty (30) days served as an active suspension, and the remainder, upon reinstatement, served on probation pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.2. Mr. Ownby’s reinstatement and grant of probation is conditioned upon payment of restitution to two (2) clients. Mr. Ownby is required to pay court costs and the costs of the disciplinary proceeding.

A Petition for Discipline was filed February 23, 2017, and a Supplemental Petition for Discipline was filed July 22, 2016, alleging Mr. Ownby missed scheduled deadlines and court appearances in several matters, failed to provide the legal services for which he was retained, and failed to maintain confidentiality. Mr. Ownby admitted his conduct violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence); 1.2 (scope of representation and allocation of authority between client and lawyer); 1.3 (diligence); 1.4 (communication); 1.6 (confidentiality); 3.4 (fairness to opposing party and counsel) and 8.4 (misconduct).

Mr. Ownby must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and may not return to the active practice of law until an order of reinstatement is entered by the Supreme Court.

**SEAN GARDNER SAXON, BPR #18880
COLORADO**

On August 11, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an Order of Reciprocal Discipline suspending the law license of Sean Gardner Saxon of Arvada, Colorado, for three (3) years. The suspension is retroactive to December 28, 2016. Mr. Saxon is licensed to practice law in Colorado and Tennessee.

Upon receiving notification by the Board of Professional Responsibility that Mr. Saxon was subject to attorney discipline in Colorado, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered a notice requiring Mr. Saxon to demonstrate why reciprocal discipline should not be imposed in Tennessee. The Colorado Hearing Board found that Mr. Saxon violated Colorado Rules of Professional Conduct 3.4 (c) (disobeying an obligation of a tribunal); 8.4(b) (criminal acts); and, 8.4 (h) (conduct that wrongfully harms others and reflects adversely on the lawyer's fitness to practice law). Mr. Saxon did not file a response to the Tennessee Supreme Court’s notice, and the Court found that it was appropriate to enter an Order of Reciprocal Discipline suspending Mr. Saxon’s license to practice law in Tennessee.
SUSPENSIONS (continued)

Mr. Saxon must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

Gerald Denny Waggoner, BPR #13988
Shelby County

On August 1, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an order suspending Gerald Denny Waggoner, Jr., from the practice of law for a period of three (3) years, pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.2, and requiring payment of restitution to the client and costs to the Board of Professional Responsibility. As a condition of reinstatement, Mr. Waggoner will be required to engage a practice monitor for one (1) year.

A Petition for Discipline was filed against Mr. Waggoner on March 1, 2016, consisting of one (1) complaint alleging lack of diligence, lack of communication, incompetent representation, misrepresentations to client, improper fee and misrepresentations to the Board. Mr. Waggoner applied for and received a statutory award of attorney fees in an ERISA case. Although required by a written contingency fee agreement to credit any fee received toward that owed by the client, Mr. Waggoner demanded a forty percent (40%) contingency fee upon settlement of the case in addition to retaining the previously received statutory fee. Without the knowledge or consent of his client, Mr. Waggoner removed the disputed fees from his trust account and converted them to his personal and business use. Further, Mr. Waggoner failed to provide his client with a detailed accounting of the funds received and converted and materially misrepresented to the Board that the client’s money remained in the law firm’s trust account. The matter was tried before a Hearing Panel which determined the appropriate disciplinary sanction to impose upon Mr. Waggoner was a three (3) year suspension.

Mr. Waggoner’s conduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC) 1.4 (communication); 1.5(a) & (b) (fees); 1.15(a), (b), (d) & (e) (safekeeping property and funds); 8.1(a) & (b) (bar admissions and disciplinary matters) and 8.4(a), (b), (c) & (d) (misconduct).

Mr. Waggoner must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

Paul Julius Walwyn, BPR #18263
Davidson County

On August 4, 2017, Paul Julius Walwyn, of Nashville, Tennessee, was suspended for one (1) year by order of the Tennessee Supreme Court, effective August 4, 2017. Six (6) months of the suspension is to be served as active suspension. The remainder of the suspension is to be served on probation with the conditions that Mr. Walwyn engage a practice monitor to supervise his office management procedures and that he complete an additional six (6) hours of continuing legal education on subjects related to the management of a law practice and/or client communication.
SUSPENSIONS (continued)

Mr. Walwyn was appointed to represent a defendant on appeal in a criminal case. He failed to file a notice of appeal. He waited three and one-half years before filing a motion to accept a late appeal. He did not adequately communicate with his client. Mr. Walwyn has been twice disciplined for similar misconduct in the past.

A hearing panel recommended that Mr. Walwyn be publicly censured, retain a practice monitor for one year and complete an additional six hours of continuing legal education on subjects related to the management of a law practice and/or client communication. Pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 15.4, the Supreme Court found that the hearing panel’s punishment was inadequate. It modified the judgment of the hearing panel as set forth above.

Mr. Walwyn’s ethical misconduct violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1, Competence; 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; and 8.4(a) and (d), Misconduct.

Mr. Walwyn must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys. Mr. Walwyn must pay the Board’s costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS

ERICH WEBB BAILEY, BPR #32614
FRANKLIN

On July 17, 2017, Erich Webb Bailey was temporarily suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court upon finding that Mr. Bailey has failed to comply with the Court’s Order entered June 28, 2017, directing that he contact Tennessee Lawyers Assistant Program for an evaluation. The Court’s June 28, 2017 Order expressly provided that failure by Mr. Bailey to comply with the order may serve as the basis for temporary suspension pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.3.

Mr. Bailey is immediately precluded from accepting any new cases, and he must cease representing existing clients by August 16, 2017. After August 16, 2017, Mr. Bailey shall not use any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, or law clerk nor maintain a presence where the practice of law is conducted.

This temporary suspension remains in effect until dissolution or modification by the Supreme Court. Mr. Bailey may, for good cause, request dissolution or modification of the suspension by petition to the Supreme Court.

BOBBY GENE GRAY, JR., BPR #11507
McNAIRY COUNTY

Effective July 27, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee temporarily suspended Bobby Gene Gray, Jr. from the practice of law for posing a threat of substantial harm to the public. Section 12.3 of Supreme
TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS (continued)

Court Rule 9 provides for the immediate temporary suspension of an attorney’s license to practice law in cases where the attorney’s conduct poses a threat of substantial harm to the public.

Mr. Gray is immediately precluded from accepting any new cases and must cease representing existing clients before August 26, 2017. Thereafter, Mr. Gray shall not use any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, or law clerk nor maintain a presence where the practice of law is conducted.

Mr. Gray must notify all clients being represented in pending matters, as well as co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court’s Order suspending his law license. Mr. Gray is required to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

This suspension remains in effect until dissolution or modification by the Supreme Court. Mr. Gray may for good cause request dissolution or modification of the suspension by petition to the Supreme Court.

R. W. HARDISON, BPR #9479
WILLIAMSON COUNTY

Effective August 29, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee temporarily suspended R. W. Hardison from the practice of law upon finding that Mr. Hardison misappropriated funds for his own use and poses a threat of substantial harm to the public. Section 12.3 of Supreme Court Rule 9 provides for the immediate summary suspension of an attorney’s license to practice law in cases of an attorney’s misappropriation of funds.

Mr. Hardison is immediately precluded from accepting any new cases and must cease representing existing clients by September 28, 2017. After September 28, 2017, Mr. Hardison shall not use any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, or law clerk nor maintain a presence where the practice of law is conducted.

Mr. Hardison must notify all clients being represented in pending matters, as well as co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court’s Order suspending his law license. Mr. Hardison is required to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

This suspension remains in effect until dissolution or modification by the Supreme Court. Mr. Hardison may for good cause request dissolution or modification of the suspension by petition to the Supreme Court.

NATHANIEL HARRIS KOENIG, BPR #10252
DAVIDSON COUNTY

On June 15, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee temporarily suspended Nathaniel Harris Koenig from the practice of law upon finding that Mr. Koenig has misappropriated funds and poses a threat of substantial harm to the public. Section 12.3 of Supreme Court Rule 9 provides for the immediate summary suspension of an attorney’s license to practice law if an attorney poses a threat of substantial harm to the public.
TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS (continued)

Mr. Koenig is immediately precluded from accepting any new cases, and he must cease representing existing clients by June 25, 2017. After July 25, 2017, Mr. Koenig shall not use any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, or law clerk nor maintain a presence where the practice of law is conducted.

Mr. Koenig must notify all clients being represented in pending matters, as well as co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court’s Order suspending his law license. Mr. Koenig is required to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

This suspension remains in effect until dissolution or modification by the Supreme Court. Mr. Koenig may for good cause request dissolution or modification of the suspension by petition to the Supreme Court.

JENNIFER ELIZABETH JONES, BPR #31850
DAVIDSON COUNTY

On July 31, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee temporarily suspended Jennifer Elizabeth Jones from the practice of law for failing to respond to the Board regarding complaints of misconduct. Section 12.3 of Supreme Court Rule 9 provides for the immediate temporary suspension of an attorney’s license to practice law in cases of an attorney’s failure to respond to the Board regarding a complaint of misconduct.

Ms. Jones is immediately precluded from accepting any new cases and must cease representing existing clients before August 31, 2017. Thereafter, Ms. Jones shall not use any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, or law clerk nor maintain a presence where the practice of law is conducted.

Ms. Jones must notify all clients being represented in pending matters, as well as co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court’s Order suspending her law license. Ms. Jones is required to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

Ms. Jones must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 12.3(d), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of temporarily suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

This suspension remains in effect until dissolution or modification by the Supreme Court. Ms. Jones may for good cause request dissolution or modification of the suspension by petition to the Supreme Court.

ROBERT LEE MARLOW, BPR #9226
BEDFORD COUNTY

On August 25, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee temporarily suspended Robert Lee Marlow from the practice of law upon finding that Mr. Marlow failed to respond to the Board regarding a complaint of misconduct. Section 12.3 of Supreme Court Rule 9 provides for the immediate summary suspension of an attorney’s license to practice law in cases of an attorney’s failure to respond to the Board regarding a complaint of misconduct.
TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS (continued)

Mr. Marlow is immediately precluded from accepting any new cases, and he must cease representing existing clients by September 24, 2017. After September 24, 2017, Mr. Marlow shall not use any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, or law clerk nor maintain a presence where the practice of law is conducted.

Mr. Marlow must notify all clients being represented in pending matters, as well as co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court’s Order suspending his law license. Mr. Marlow is required to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

Mr. Marlow must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, §§ 28 and 12.3(d), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of temporarily suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

This suspension remains in effect until dissolution or modification by the Supreme Court. Mr. Marlow may for good cause request dissolution or modification of the suspension by petition to the Supreme Court.

GAIL OSTBY MATHES, BPR #4649
SHELBY COUNTY

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered June 23, 2017, Gail Ostby Mathes was removed from Disability Inactive Status. Ms. Mathes was placed on Disability Inactive Status by Order of the Supreme Court on October 8, 2012. At the time of her placement on Disability Inactive Status, Ms. Mathes’ law license was temporarily suspended for failure to respond to a disciplinary complaint. The June 23, 2017 Order states that the Order of Temporary Suspension entered on June 26, 2012, remains in full force and effect.

CASEY EUGENE MORELAND, BPR #11069
DAVIDSON COUNTY

On April 6, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee temporarily suspended Casey Eugene Moreland from the practice of law upon finding that Mr. Moreland poses a threat of substantial harm to the public. Section 12.3 of Supreme Court Rule 9 provides for the immediate summary suspension of an attorney’s license to practice law if an attorney poses a threat of substantial harm to the public.

Mr. Moreland is immediately precluded from accepting any new cases, and he must cease representing existing clients by May 6, 2017. After May 6, 2017, Mr. Moreland shall not use any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, or law clerk nor maintain a presence where the practice of law is conducted.

Mr. Moreland must notify all clients being represented in pending matters, as well as co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court’s Order suspending his law license. Mr. Moreland is required to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.
TEMPORARY SUSPENSIONS (continued)

This suspension remains in effect until dissolution or modification by the Supreme Court. Mr. Moreland may for good cause request dissolution or modification of the suspension by petition to the Supreme Court.

ALBERT FITZPATRICK OFFICER, III, BPR #11629
PUTNAM COUNTY

On July 12, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee temporarily suspended Albert Fitzpatrick Officer, III, from the practice of law upon finding that Mr. Officer poses a threat of substantial harm to the public. Section 12.3 of Supreme Court Rule 9 provides for the immediate summary suspension of an attorney’s license to practice law if an attorney poses a threat of substantial harm to the public.

Mr. Officer is immediately precluded from accepting any new cases, and he must cease representing existing clients by August 11, 2017. After August 11, 2017, Mr. Officer shall not use any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, or law clerk nor maintain a presence where the practice of law is conducted.

Mr. Officer must notify all clients being represented in pending matters, as well as co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court’s Order suspending his law license. Mr. Officer is required to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

This suspension remains in effect until dissolution or modification by the Supreme Court. Mr. Officer may for good cause request dissolution or modification of the suspension by petition to the Supreme Court.

PUBLIC CENSURES

CHARLES ALPHONSO CARPENTER, BPR #16429
BLOUNT COUNTY

On April 11, 2017, Charles Alphonso Carpenter, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

In two separate matters, Mr. Carpenter neglected his clients’ cases. Mr. Carpenter frequently failed to respond to calls, emails, and text messages from his clients, and in one instance, he changed office locations without notifying the client, resulting in a year of no communication. Mr. Carpenter also failed to appear for court hearings and depositions. Mr. Carpenter has demonstrated a pattern of neglect in violation of the Rules.

By these acts, Charles Alphonso Carpenter has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence) and 1.4 (communication) and is hereby Publicly Censured for this violation.

KIRK D. CATRON, BPR #23552
RUTHERFORD COUNTY

On April 20, 2017, Kirk D. Catron, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.
PUBLIC CENSURES (continued)

On June 13, 2016, Mr. Catron was representing a client in chancery court before a special master. Although the special master ruled in Mr. Catron’s favor on an objection, Mr. Catron remarked, “That’s what I have come to expect from you.” Mr. Catron continued, “You never treat me or my office fairly, and of course you will rule against me, as you always do.” Mr. Catron went on to complain that the special master had treated him unfairly in three other cases and must have a personal problem with him. Mr. Catron’s actions demonstrated disrespectful and obstreperous conduct to a tribunal.

By these acts, Kirk D. Catron, has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 3.5(e) (engaging in conduct intended to disrupt a tribunal), 8.2(a) (impugning integrity of judicial officers), and 8.4(d) (misconduct) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FRANCIS MICHAEL DESLAURIERS, BPR #12051
TIPTON COUNTY

On April 20, 2017, Francis Michael Deslauriers, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

In August of 2012, Mr. Deslauriers was retained to represent a client in a lawsuit against an insurance company for a property damage claim. In the three and a half years that Mr. Deslauriers was counsel of record, he took little action other than filing the lawsuit, and he routinely failed to communicate with his client. The lawsuit was dismissed due to Mr. Deslauriers’ failure to serve the defendants or take their depositions.

By these acts, Francis Michael Deslauriers, has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 3.2 (expediting litigation), and 8.4 (misconduct) and is hereby Publicly Censured for this violation.

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney’s ability to practice law.

JOHN LOUIS DOLAN, JR., BPR #9158
MEMPHIS

On July 31, 2017, John Louis Dolan, Jr., an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Dolan showed a lack of understanding of the Rules of Appellate Procedure in his representation of a client, failed to act diligently in meeting deadlines or otherwise expedite the appeal process, failed to comply with rules and orders of the court, and engaged in conduct which was prejudicial to both the client and the court.

By these acts, John Louis Dolan, Jr. has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 3.2 (expediting litigation), 3.4 (knowing disobedience of an obligation under the rules of a tribunal), 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice), and 8.4(g)
(knowing failure to comply with a court order in which the attorney is a party), and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

**DANNY C. GARLAND, II, BPR #17992**

**KNOX COUNTY**

On August 10, 2017, the Tennessee Supreme Court affirmed a Public Censure for Knoxville attorney Danny C. Garland, II.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a petition for discipline against Mr. Garland based upon allegations of failure to communicate and failure to exercise appropriate diligence. Mr. Garland began representation of an adoption matter in September 2010. Over the course of almost three (3) years, Mr. Garland failed to ensure reasonable communication with his client. Further, Mr. Garland failed to ensure a timely resolution despite having obtained agreement to the adoption by the opposing party on July 11, 2011, and again, on September 12, 2012, following an Order by the trial court to prosecute the matter. A hearing panel found that Mr. Garland had violated the Rules of Professional Conduct and recommended that he be publicly censured. Mr. Garland appealed the decision to the Knox County Chancery Court, which affirmed the decision of the hearing panel. Mr. Garland then appealed to the Tennessee Supreme Court. A majority of the Tennessee Supreme Court affirmed the judgment of the trial court, with a dissenting opinion.

Mr. Garland violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; and 8.4(a), Misconduct.

**ROBIN JEFFREY GORDON, BPR #14618**

**DAVIDSON COUNTY**

On April 4, 2017, Robin Jeffrey Gordon, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Gordon’s law firm was hired to represent a client in modifying a parenting plan in April 2013. On September 30, 2014, an associate at Mr. Gordon’s firm handling the matter left employment after filing the agreed parenting plan. In mid-November 2014, the legal assistant discovered there was a problem with the agreed order. Mr. Gordon revised the parenting plan and refiled the proposed agreed order on December 18, 2014, but failed to file a child support worksheet. On January 28, 2015, Mr. Gordon filed a child support worksheet, but did not send it to the judge’s chambers. The court ultimately signed the agreed order on April 23, 2015. Mr. Gordon failed to ensure that the proposed agreed order was timely signed by the judge.

By these acts, Mr. Gordon has violated Rule 1.3 (diligence) and 3.2 (expediting litigation) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.
On July 10, 2017, Randall Keith Hatfield, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Hatfield failed to diligently represent his client or expedite the litigation in his client’s post-conviction proceeding. Mr. Hatfield also failed to adequately communicate with his client and other persons associated with the representation and was ultimately removed as appointed counsel by the court.

By these acts, Randall Keith Hatfield, has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 3.2 (expediting litigation), and 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

On April 11, 2017, Arthur Wayne Henry, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

In February of 2015, Mr. Henry was retained to represent a client in his suit to establish the paternity of his minor son. Mr. Henry filed the appropriate documents to establish paternity, including a motion for paternity testing. However, when the opposing party became uncooperative with regard to the paternity testing, Mr. Henry ceased working on the case, and would not respond to his client’s repeated requests for information about his case. Therefore, his client was forced to hire a new attorney.

By these acts, Arthur Wayne Henry has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), and 3.2 (expediting litigation) and is hereby Publicly Censured for this violation.

On July 10, 2017, Larry Joe Hinson, Jr., an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Hinson failed to diligently represent his client or expedite the litigation in his client’s post-divorce case. Mr. Hinson also failed to adequately communicate with his client and failed to timely comply with the court’s direction to submit a scheduling order in the case. Additionally, Mr. Hinson failed to timely respond to multiple communications sent to him by the Board.

By these acts, Larry Joe Hinson, Jr. has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 3.2 (expediting litigation), 8.1(b) (disciplinary matters), and 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice), and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.
PUBLIC CENSURES (continued)

WILLIAM ARNOLD HOTZ, BPR #4226
KNOX COUNTY

On July 10, 2017, William Arnold Hotz, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Hotz failed to satisfy a third-party lien which he knew to exist at the time he received settlement funds and paid the settlement funds directly to his client to the detriment of the third-party lienholder. By these acts, William Arnold Hotz has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.15 (safekeeping property) and is hereby Publicly Censured for this violation.

JONATHAN RYAN JOHNSON, BPR #30780
WILLIAMSON COUNTY

On July 10, 2017, Jonathan Ryan Johnson, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Johnson failed to competently represent his client’s interest in the entry of a Qualified Domestic Relations Order after the client’s divorce had concluded. Mr. Johnson failed to diligently represent his client or expedite the litigation in his client’s post-divorce case and no Qualified Domestic Relations Order has been approved or filed with the court in the 30 months since the divorce concluded.

By these acts, Jonathan Ryan Johnson has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence), 3.2 (expediting litigation), and 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice), and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

SAMUEL JONES, BPR #13849
SHELBY COUNTY

On June 30, 2017, Samuel Jones of Shelby County, Tennessee, was Publicly Censured by order of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

A Petition for Discipline was filed on February 16, 2016, alleging that Mr. Jones acted improperly in the representation of two clients in Bankruptcy Court by accepting fees without court approval and failing to deposit them into his trust account and failing to meet certain filing deadlines.

The Hearing Panel found that Mr. Jones violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence); 1.3 (diligence); 1.15 (safekeeping property); 3.4(c) (fairness to opposing party and counsel); 8.4 (a) (violating rules of professional conduct); and 8.4 (d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice).
On July 10, 2017, Mary Belle Langford, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court. As a condition of the Public Censure, Ms. Langford shall make restitution to her client in the amount of $3,250.00 within 180 days.

Ms. Langford failed to adequately communicate with her client and she failed to submit discovery responses to the opposing party which had been timely provided by her client. Ms. Langford’s neglect and failure to appear in court led to a default judgment granted to the opposing party and sanctions assessed against her client in the amount of $3,250.00.

By these acts, Mary Belle Langford has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 3.2 (expediting litigation), and 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice), and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

On July 11, 2017, Erica May Lotz, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

In her representation of a client in a divorce action, Ms. Lotz withdrew unearned client fees from her trust account and commingled these fees with her own personal funds. After being discharged by her client, Ms. Lotz failed to promptly return the unearned fees.

By these acts, Erica May Lotz has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15(a) (comingling client fees with personal funds), 1.15(c) (withdrawal of unearned client fees from trust account), and 1.16(d)(6) (returning unearned fees following discharge), and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

On June 21, 2017, Kristen Elizabeth Menke, of Davidson County, Tennessee, was publicly censured by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. The Court further ordered Ms. Menke to pay costs and expenses to the Board of Professional Responsibility.

On February 19, 2016, a Petition for Discipline was filed against Kristen Elizabeth Menke. The Petition for Discipline included one (1) complaint of disciplinary misconduct alleging that Ms. Menke made several inappropriate comments in a closing argument. Ms. Menke was an Assistant District Attorney for Davidson County. During her argument in a criminal case, Ms. Menke made direct and indirect references
PUBLIC CENSURES (continued)

to the defendant’s decision not to testify. Further, Ms. Menke improperly injected personal opinion about the justness of the cause in her closing argument.

A hearing panel determined that Ms. Menke violated Rules of Professional Conduct 3.4(e)(1), (2) and (3) (Fairness to the Opposing Party and Counsel); and 8.4(a) and (d) (Misconduct). For these violations, the Supreme Court of Tennessee publicly censured Ms. Menke.

ALBERT FITZPATRICK OFFICER, BPR #11629
PUTNAM COUNTY

On July 6, 2017, Albert Fitzpatrick Officer, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

On September 12, 2016, Mr. Officer’s license to practice law was suspended for failure to pay the annual registration fee. While his license was suspended, Mr. Officer made several court appearances for clients in Putnam, Overton, and Clay counties, and engaged in settlement negotiations in two divorce cases.

By these acts, Albert Fitzpatrick Officer has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law) and is hereby Publicly Censured for this violation.

SAMUEL LEE PERKINS, BPR #11857
SHELBY COUNTY

On July 10, 2017, Samuel Lee Perkins, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Perkins failed to timely file a Motion for New Trial for his criminal client which prohibited the client from raising issues on appeal other than insufficiency of the evidence. Over five years later, the client’s petition for post-conviction relief was granted. Mr. Perkins’ delay caused injury to his client and to the administration of justice.

By these acts, Samuel Lee Perkins, has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence) and 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

JOHNNY QUITMAN RASBERRY, JR., BPR #19160
SHELBY COUNTY

On April 4, 2017, Johnny Quitman Rasberry, Jr., an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Rasberry was hired by a client for the adoption of two children. Mr. Rasberry prepared a petition for the adoption of the children, and the client signed it on March 26, 2015. In August 2015, the client told Mr. Rasberry that one of the opposing parties in the adoption had expressed interest in agreeing to the
adoption. Mr. Rasberry failed to file the petition until October 4, 2016, thus causing a significant delay in the adoption of the two children. Further, he failed to respond to requests for information from his client on this matter and failed to take any action on the potential agreement of one opposing party.

By these acts, Mr. Rasberry has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 3.2 (expediting litigation), and 8.4 (prejudice to the administration of justice).

Mr. Rasberry is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

WALTER T. SEARCY, BPR #11867
DAVIDSON COUNTY

On April 26, 2017, Walter T. Searcy of Nashville, Tennessee was publicly censured by the Tennessee Supreme Court, and ordered to pay restitution.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Searcy pursuant to Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court, based upon one complaint alleging that Mr. Searcy improperly held himself out as a licensed lawyer in his representation of an individual before the EEOC. Mr. Searcy was suspended from the practice of law on October 14, 1992, and has never been reinstated. Mr. Searcy entered into a Conditional Guilty Plea admitting to the misconduct.

Mr. Searcy admitted violating Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 8, Rules of Professional Conduct 7.1 (communications concerning lawyers services) and 8.4 (a) (misconduct).

For these violations, the Tennessee Supreme Court publicly censured Walter T. Searcy.

MATTHEW F. STOWE, BPR #29994
CARROLL COUNTY

On September 12, 2017, Matthew F. Stowe, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, was publicly censured by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. Mr. Stowe is ordered to pay costs to the Board of Professional Responsibility.

On February 26, 2016, the Board of Professional Responsibility (“Board”) filed a Petition for Discipline against Matthew F. Stowe based upon one (1) complaint of misconduct. The alleged ethical misconduct by Mr. Stowe arises from his actions while serving as the District Attorney General for the 24th Judicial District of Tennessee. The complaint alleged that Mr. Stowe engaged in multiple acts of harassment that had no substantial purpose other than to embarrass, delay, or burden a witness. In the prosecution of a murder trial, Mr. Stowe’s office, through an Assistant District Attorney, was working with a witness to secure her testimony at trial. After the witness informed Mr. Stowe’s office of a potential scheduling conflict, she was informed that her schedule could not be accommodated and she would need to appear as scheduled. Despite the witness’s agreement with the Assistant District Attorney to attend the trial as scheduled, Mr. Stowe began directly communicating with the witness and her supervisor in a harassing and hostile manner and stated that he would hold her personally responsible if she “blow[s] this trial.” Mr. Stowe indicated that he would prosecute her if she failed to appear and directed his office to begin
preparation for those charges, even though he knew she had confirmed her appearance. As a result of Mr. Stowe’s harassment, the witness retained private counsel to accompany her to the trial as a precaution because she was concerned that if her testimony did not satisfy Mr. Stowe, he would take some kind of action against her.

An evidentiary hearing was held before a hearing panel. The hearing panel concluded that Mr. Stowe’s conduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 4.4(a)(1), Respect for the Rights of Third Persons and 8.4(a) and (d), Misconduct. For these violations, the Tennessee Supreme Court publicly censured Mr. Stowe.

**WILLIAM STEVEN TAYLOR, BPR #14163**
**SHELBY COUNTY**

On June 14, 2017, William Steven Taylor was publicly censured by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. As conditions of his public censure, Mr. Taylor must engage a practice monitor, undergo an audit of his trust account, replace funds in his trust account, open a new trust account and obtain one additional hour of continuing legal education in the mechanics of trust accounting. Mr. Taylor must pay the Board’s costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

Mr. Taylor represented a client in a workers compensation matter. He deposited the proceeds of a settlement to his trust account. He was to use a portion of those funds to pay one of his client’s health care providers. He failed to timely pay the provider, failed to retain those funds in his trust account, and kept inadequate trust accounting records.

Mr. Taylor’s ethical misconduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15, Safekeeping Property and Funds; and 8.4, Misconduct.

**DISABILITY INACTIVE**

**VERA J. T. ALEXANDER, BPR #9087**
**SHELBY COUNTY**

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered May 23, 2017, the law license of Vera J. T. Alexander was transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to Section 27.3 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

Ms. Alexander cannot practice law while on disability inactive status. She may return to the practice of law after reinstatement by the Tennessee Supreme Court upon showing of clear and convincing evidence that the disability has been removed and she is fit to resume the practice of law.
DISABILITY INACTIVE (continued)

RONALD E. ARONDS, BPR #33068
HAMILTON COUNTY

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered August 3, 2017, the law license of Ronald E. Aronds was transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to Section 27.3 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

Mr. Aronds cannot practice law while on disability inactive status. He may return to the practice of law after reinstatement by the Tennessee Supreme Court upon showing by clear and convincing evidence that the disability has been removed and he is fit to resume the practice of law.

JOEL ROBERT BELLIS, BPR #27750
MAURY COUNTY

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered July 28, 2017, the law license of Joel Robert Bellis was transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to Section 27.4 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

Mr. Bellis cannot practice law while on disability inactive status. He may return to the practice of law after reinstatement by the Tennessee Supreme Court upon showing of clear and convincing evidence that the disability has been removed and he is fit to resume the practice of law.

RANDELL KENT BROOKS, BPR #11804
SHELBY COUNTY

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered April 18, 2017, the law license of Ronald Kent Brooks was transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to Section 27.3 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

Mr. Brooks cannot practice law while on disability inactive status. He may return to the practice of law after reinstatement by the Tennessee Supreme Court upon showing of clear and convincing evidence that the disability has been removed and he is fit to resume the practice of law.

KENNETH KEENAN CRITES, BPR #16384
HICKMAN COUNTY

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered April 7, 2017, the law license of Kenneth Keenan Crites was transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to Section 27.3 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

Mr. Crites cannot practice law while on disability inactive status. He may return to the practice of law after reinstatement by the Tennessee Supreme Court upon showing of clear and convincing evidence that the disability has been removed and he is fit to resume the practice of law.
DISABILITY INACTIVE (continued)

SUSAN QUINN DEESE, BPR #7204
GEORGIA

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered May 23, 2017, the law license of Susan Quinn Deese was transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to Section 27.3 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

Ms. Deese cannot practice law while on disability inactive status. She may return to the practice of law after reinstatement by the Tennessee Supreme Court upon showing of clear and convincing evidence that the disability has been removed and she is fit to resume the practice of law.

JAMES PRENTICE DEROSSITT IV, BPR #18623
TEXAS

On July 18, 2017, the Tennessee Supreme Court issued an Order removing the disability inactive status of James Prentice DeRossitt IV, a Tennessee attorney who resides in Austin, Texas. On October 13, 2013, the Supreme Court entered an Order transferring Mr. DeRossitt to disability inactive status.

Although the disability inactive status has been removed, the Court noted that Mr. DeRossitt’s license to practice law will not be returned to active status until the resolution of any disciplinary proceedings pending before the Board of Professional Responsibility.

JEFFREY DANIEL FARRIS, BPR #18372
DAVIDSON COUNTY

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered April 4, 2017, the law license of Jeffrey Daniel Farris was transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to Section 27.3 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

Mr. Farris cannot practice law while on disability inactive status. He may return to the practice of law after reinstatement by the Tennessee Supreme Court upon showing of clear and convincing evidence that the disability has been removed and he is fit to resume the practice of law.

BOBBY GENE GRAY, JR., BPR #11507
MCNAIRY COUNTY

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered July 27, 2017, the law license of Bobby Gene Gray, Jr., was transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to Section 27.3 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9. Mr. Gray has also been temporarily suspended by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court on this date due to conduct that poses a risk of substantial harm to the public.

Mr. Gray cannot practice law while on disability inactive status. He may request removal of disability inactive status upon showing of clear and convincing evidence that the disability has been
DISABILITY INACTIVE (continued)

removed; however, Mr. Gray cannot be reinstated to the practice of law until he has requested, and been granted, reinstatement from temporary suspension.

PAMELA K. KELLY, BPR #13572
KNOX COUNTY

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered May 8, 2017, the law license of Pamela K. Kelly was transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to Section 27.3 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

Ms. Kelly cannot practice law while on disability inactive status. She may return to the practice of law after reinstatement by the Tennessee Supreme Court upon showing of clear and convincing evidence that the disability has been removed and she is fit to resume the practice of law.

DAVID LAMAR MADDOX, BPR #3122
DAVIDSON COUNTY

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered April 7, 2017, the law license of David Lamar Maddox was transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to Section 27.3 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

Mr. Maddox cannot practice law while on disability inactive status. He may return to the practice of law after reinstatement by the Tennessee Supreme Court upon showing of clear and convincing evidence that the disability has been removed and he is fit to resume the practice of law.

ALYSE DWYER MASSERANO, BPR #20496
SHELBY COUNTY

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered July 17, 2017, the law license of Alyse Dwyer Masserano was transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to Section 27.3 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

Ms. Masserano cannot practice law while on disability inactive status. She may return to the practice of law after reinstatement by the Tennessee Supreme Court upon showing of clear and convincing evidence that the disability has been removed and she is fit to resume the practice of law.

R. B. PARKER, JR., BPR #3123
SUMNER COUNTY

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered June 13, 2017, the law license of R. B. Parker, Jr. was transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to Section 27.3 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

Mr. Parker cannot practice law while on disability inactive status. He may return to the practice of law after reinstatement by the Tennessee Supreme Court upon showing of clear and convincing evidence that the disability has been removed and he is fit to resume the practice of law.
DISABILITY INACTIVE (continued)

HERMAN LAYNE REVIERE, BPR #8807
LAUDERDALE COUNTY

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered April 4, 2017, the law license of Herman Layne Reviere was transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to Section 27.3 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

Mr. Reviere cannot practice law while on disability inactive status. He may return to the practice of law after reinstatement by the Tennessee Supreme Court upon showing of clear and convincing evidence that the disability has been removed and he is fit to resume the practice of law.

STEVIE RAY ROLLER, BPR #6913
WARREN COUNTY

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered April 17, 2017, the law license of Stevie Ray Roller was transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to Section 27.3 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

Mr. Roller cannot practice law while on disability inactive status. He may return to the practice of law after reinstatement by the Tennessee Supreme Court upon showing of clear and convincing evidence that the disability has been removed and he is fit to resume the practice of law.

WALTER F. WILLIAMS, BPR #5929
HAMILTON COUNTY

On September 15, 2017, the Tennessee Supreme Court issued an Order removing the disability inactive status of Walter F. Williams and returning him to the active practice of law.

Mr. Williams was placed on disability inactive status on August 25, 2015, by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. On May 29, 2017, he filed a petition to be reinstated to active status, which was granted on September 15, 2017.

AL’RECO LE’JUAN YANCY, BPR #30530
KNOX COUNTY

By Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered July 17, 2017, the law license of Al’Reco Le’Juan Yancy was transferred to disability inactive status pursuant to Section 27.3 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9.

Mr. Yancy cannot practice law while on disability inactive status. He may return to the practice of law after reinstatement by the Tennessee Supreme Court upon showing of clear and convincing evidence that the disability has been removed and he is fit to resume the practice of law.
REINSTATEMENTS

CHARLES DAVID DEAS, BPR #2049
BLOUNT COUNTY

Effective June 20, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee reinstated Charles David Deas to the practice of law. Mr. Deas had been suspended by the Supreme Court of Tennessee on April 17, 2017, for a period of six (6) months with sixty (60) days to be served as an active suspension, and the remainder on probation. Mr. Deas filed a Petition for Reinstatement to the practice of law pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 30.4(c). The Board found that the Petition was satisfactory and an Order of Reinstatement was entered by the Court on June 20, 2017.

JOCELYN D. MIMS, BPR #23786
SUMNER COUNTY

On July 12, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee reinstated Jocelyn D. Mims to the practice of law. Ms. Mims had been disbarred from the practice of law by the Supreme Court of Tennessee on August 18, 2009, based upon her guilty plea to a serious crime.

On May 12, 2016, Ms. Mims filed a Petition for Reinstatement to the practice of law pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 30.4(c), and a hearing was held before a Hearing Panel on April 17, 2017. The Hearing Panel found that Ms. Mims met her burden of proving by clear and convincing evidence that she has the moral qualifications, competency and learning in the law required for admission to practice law in Tennessee, and that the resumption of the practice of law will not be detrimental to the integrity and standing of the bar or the administration of justice, or subversive to the public interest. Based upon the Hearing Panel’s recommendation, the Supreme Court reinstated Ms. Mims’ license to practice law.

ALBERT FITZPATRICK OFFICER, III, BPR #11629
PUTNAM COUNTY

Albert Fitzpatrick Officer, III, has been reinstated to the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered September 11, 2017. As a condition of reinstatement, Mr. Officer must continue his compliance with the Monitoring Agreement from the Tennessee Lawyer Assistance Program (TLAP), subject to any additional TLAP recommendations. Mr. Officer is also ordered to pay the Board’s costs in this matter.

Mr. Officer was temporarily suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Supreme Court on July 12, 2017, for posing a threat of substantial harm to the public. On August 8, 2017, Mr. Officer filed a Request for Dissolution or Modification of Temporary Suspension. On August 30, 2017, a Board Panel entered a recommendation that the temporary suspension be dissolved.
On September 5, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee reinstated Alisa Lashelle Simmons (Tate) to the practice of law. Ms. Simmons (Tate) had been suspended by the Supreme Court of Tennessee on October 27, 2011, for one (1) year, retroactive to her temporary suspension on October 31, 2010. She will be required to have a practice monitor for twelve (12) months.

Ms. Simmons (Tate) filed a Petition for Reinstatement on June 22, 2016, pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 30.4(d). The Hearing Panel found that Ms. Simmons (Tate) met her burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence that she has the moral qualifications, competency and learning in law required for admission to practice law in this state and that the resumption of the practice of law within the state will not be detrimental to the integrity and standing of the bar or the administration of justice, or subversive to the public interest. Based upon the Hearing Panel’s recommendation, the Supreme Court reinstated Ms. Simmons (Tate) to practice law.