

**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY  
OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE**

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: MARY JEANETTE CLEMENT, BPR #22464**  
**CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

July 3, 2014

**SUMNER COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On June 30, 2014, Mary Jeanette Clement, of Portland, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for a period of two (2) years with nine (9) months of the suspension to be served as an active suspension and fifteen (15) months probated with conditions. In addition, Ms. Clement must pay court costs and the Board's costs and expenses.

The Board filed a Petition for Discipline against Ms. Clement based on four (4) complaints of misconduct. In the first matter, Ms. Clement knowingly hired a suspended Tennessee attorney in July, 2010 and allowed him to draft legal pleadings for her review, signature and filing in a Chancery Court action. In the second matter, Ms. Clement, after being retained by an insurance company to defend the suspended attorney, allowed the suspended attorney to work on his personal case and billed the insurance company for the work performed by the suspended attorney. In the third matter, Ms. Clement negotiated a plea for her client but failed to include the agreed restitution in the written plea agreement. Ms. Clement declined attempts by her client to correct the plea and failed to appear in court on her client's behalf. Ms. Clement's actions resulted in a Bench Warrant being issued for the client and further delayed his release from jail after serving his sentence. In the final matter, Ms. Clement quoted and received a flat fee for representation of her client. After incurring more time than she previously anticipated, Ms. Clement billed her client for fees in excess of the flat fee agreement.

Ms. Clement's conduct violated RPC 1.1, Competence; 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.5, Fees; 5.3, Responsibilities Regarding Non-lawyer Assistants; 5.5, Unauthorized Practice of Law and 8.4(a), Misconduct.

Ms. Clement must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18 (2006) and Section 30.4 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

Clement 2160-6 rel.doc

**PLEASE NOTE**

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