

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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JOHN DOUGLAS GODBEE, BPR #6234
CONTACT: SANDY GARRETT
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

November 16, 2012

HAWKINS COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED

On November 15, 2012, the Tennessee Supreme Court disbarred John Douglas Godbee, a Hawkins County attorney.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Godbee pursuant to Rule 9, Section 8.2, of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, charging Mr. Godbee with official misconduct and, while acting as assistant district attorney, soliciting and/or receiving sexual favors from female defendants in exchange for consideration on their cases.

Mr. Godbee submitted a Conditional Guilty Plea which was approved by a Hearing Panel, the Board of Professional Responsibility and the Supreme Court. Mr. Godbee's actions violate Rules of Professional Conduct 4.2 (communication with a person represented by counsel) and 8.4 (misconduct).

Mr. Godbee was ordered to pay the expenses and costs of the disciplinary proceedings against him, pursuant to Rule 9, Section 24.3, of the Rules of the Supreme Court, and fully comply in all respects with the requirements and obligations of disbarred attorneys as set forth in Rule 9, Section 18.

Godbee 2074-1 rel.doc

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