

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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: TIFFANY MARCILYNNE JOHNS, BPR #27860
CONTACT: EILEEN BURKHALTER SMITH
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

January 23, 2014

WILLIAMSON COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On January 22, 2014, Tiffany Marcilynne Johns, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Ms. Johns represented a party in a child custody matter in Kentucky for which she was admitted *pro hac vice*. Ms. Johns filed a motion to have the matter transferred to Tennessee where the parties' divorce had been finalized. At a hearing, Ms. Johns falsely told the Kentucky Judge that she had spoken with a Kentucky Court of Appeals Judge about the applicable law in Kentucky. At another hearing, Ms. Johns falsely told the Kentucky Judge that she had spoken with a "female justice, her law clerk" of the Kentucky Court of Appeals on the matter.

After Ms. Johns filed a petition to terminate the opposing party's parental rights in Tennessee, she called the Tennessee Judge and left a message inquiring whether a federal statute would apply to the matter.

In response to a direct question from the Kentucky Judge, Ms. Johns stated that a hearing was set in the Tennessee matter on a particular date. In fact, no hearing had been docketed with the court clerk, and the opposing party had not been served with notice of the hearing or the petition.

By these acts, Tiffany Marcilynne Johns has violated Rules of Professional Conduct Rule 3.3(a) (candor to the tribunal) and 3.5(b) (*ex parte* communication with tribunal).

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

Johns 35409-5 rel.doc

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