



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RHEA, HOWARD W.

BPR # 002218

April 17, 1989

Public censure on April 17, 1989. While serving as Hancock County Attorney, he failed to appear at a hearing before the State Election Commission involving the County Commissioner. As a result of his failure to appear, the State Election Commission found against Hancock County and the Hancock County Chancery Court adopted the State Election Commission's decision based in part of Rhea's failure to appear. In a separate matter, prior to being County Attorney, he represented a client in a lawsuit who sought the rebuilding of a bridge over his property. He sued the County Superintendent. The matter was still pending when Rhea became County Attorney. Upon becoming County Attorney, he submitted to the judge an "agreed order" co-signed by himself and the necessary County administrators/executives which agreed to build a bridge. The Chancellor, not realizing what was happening, initially signed the order, but the order was later revoked and Rhea was precluded from further involvement in the case. In a third matter involving a lawsuit against the County Election Commission by a voter, Rhea recused himself from being involved alleging a conflict of interest. However, his son, whom he practiced law with, remained in the lawsuit.



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