



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: THOMAS H. STRAWN, BPR # 2710
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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October 21, 2003

DYERSBURG ATTORNEY CENSURED

On October 21, 2003, Thomas H. Strawn, of Dyersburg, Tennessee, received a conditional public censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility. Strawn was given notice of the censure and did not request a hearing.

The Board of Professional Responsibility engaged a certified public accountant to audit Strawn's trust account. The audit revealed the following inappropriate trust accounting practices by Strawn:

1. Writing checks for payments for utilities directly from Strawn's trust account allegedly for earned fees; and
2. Allocating draws to himself in excess of deposits; and
3. Depositing earned fees into Strawn's trust account instead of the business account; and
4. Failure to maintain client ledger sheets, settlement statements and contracts of employment making the appropriateness of draws payable to Strawn impossible to determine; and
5. Strawn failed to maintain a trust receipts book and trust disbursement book.

For Strawn's mishandling of his trust account the Board of Professional Responsibility censured Strawn and imposed the following conditions on Strawn:

1. Strawn must pay the costs and expenses of the audit by the certified public accountant; and
2. Strawn must consult with and comply with any and all recommendations of a law practice management expert; and
3. Strawn must have a monitor for his trust account for a period of one (1) year.

Strawn's mishandling of his trust account violates Disciplinary Rules 1-102(A)(1)(5) and (6) and DR 9-102(A) and (B) of the Code of Professional Responsibility.

The Board of Professional Responsibility declares Strawn's actions to be improper but does not limit his right to practice law.

SG:mw

Strawn 25437-8-sg rel.doc