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Of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JOHN H. NORTON, BPR #5069
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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July 18, 2002

SHELBYVILLE LAWYER PLACED ON PROBATION

John H. Norton, a Shelbyville attorney, has been publicly disciplined by order of the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered on July 11, 2002. The disciplinary action was entered based upon a conditional guilty plea by Norton. The plea was recommended by the hearing panel for the case and approved by the Board of Professional Responsibility and the Supreme Court.

The order imposes a one (1) year suspension on Norton but the suspension will be held in abeyance during a two (2) year probation period. Successful completion of the probation term and conditions will abate the suspension.

During the probation period Norton is required to remain free of alcohol and controlled substances and to comply with a monitoring/advocacy agreement that he entered into with Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program.

The conditional guilty plea provided that Norton had neglected and failed to prepare two (2) cases. Norton also admitted that he had failed to reasonably communicate with a client in another case. He also admitted that he had a personal conflict of interest in a fourth case.

The disciplinary rules are mandatory for all attorneys. They state a minimum level of conduct and any violation reflects negatively on the standing and integrity of the bar.

CH:mw

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