October 5, 2001

CHATTANOOGA LAWYER PUBLICLY CENSURED

Chattanooga lawyer, Robert L. Brown, has consented to a Tennessee Supreme Court Order for Public Censure for failing to make adequate affirmative disclosures in litigation in which he was a party, and in a sale of real estate in which he was the seller and closing attorney. Mr. Brown also agreed to discontinue the practice of maintaining his personal funds in an escrow account to advance recording costs for customers and to prevent overdrafts. The Board contended Mr. Brown’s personal funds should have been removed from the escrow account (except as required to pay service charges) and a separate account maintained to make advances on behalf of the title company customers. The Board did not contend that there had been any improper use of customer funds since all advances were made with Mr. Brown’s personal funds.

A public censure is a form of discipline that declares the conduct of the lawyer improper but does not limit the lawyer’s right to practice law.