



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RE

June 9, 2003

DECHERD LAWYER SUSPENDED FROM PRACTICE OF LAW

Barbara Goedeke Hardin of Decherd, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law for sixty days by Order of the Supreme Court filed June 3, 2003.

A Petition for Discipline was filed against Ms. Hardin by the Board of Professional Responsibility on July 25, 2001, a Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed on July 22, 2002, and a Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed on September 25, 2002. On February 18, 2003, Ms. Hardin entered into a Conditional Plea of Guilty to resolve the Petitions for Discipline for a stated form of discipline. The petitions arose out of three complaints of misconduct, one in a custody case, one in a medical malpractice case, and one in an automobile accident case. Ms. Hardin admitted to violating the Rules of the Code of Professional Responsibility by handling a legal matter which she knew or should have known she was incompetent to handle without associating a lawyer who was competent to handle the matter, handling a matter without the preparation necessary, neglecting a matter entrusted to her, failing to act with reasonable diligence and promptness, failing to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter or complying with reasonable requests for information or explaining a matter to the extent reasonably necessary to permit the client to make an informed decision. Ms. Hardin is prohibited from maintaining a presence where the practice of law is conducted and is required to remove and refrain from use of any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, law clerk, or similar title during the period of suspension. The Order further requires Ms. Hardin to pay the cost of the disciplinary proceeding.

