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of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
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July 29, 2004

NASHVILLE LAWYER CENSURED

Ernest Lee Edwards, III, a Nashville lawyer, was publicly censured by the Board of Professional Responsibility on July 28, 2004. A public censure is a public rebuke and warning to the offender, but a censure does not affect the lawyer's license to practice law. The discipline was imposed by the Board and Edwards had a right to request a hearing. A hearing was not requested and the discipline is final.

The censure was based on two complaints. In one complaint Mr. Edwards was sanctioned for neglect and failure to properly prepare a divorce case. The client learned four years later that a divorce decree had not been entered and the case dismissed.

In the other complaint, Edwards was sanctioned for failure to complete the estates of decedents. Court orders to close the estates were not complied with by the attorney. The misconduct was aggravated by the failure of the attorney to respond to inquiries by Disciplinary Counsel.

CAH:mw

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