



**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
of the  
**SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE**

**LANCE B. BRACY**  
CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

**LAURA L. CHASTAIN**  
DEPUTY CHIEF DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

**BEVERLY P. SHARPE**  
CONSUMER COUNSEL DIRECTOR

1101 KERMIT DRIVE, SUITE 730  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37217  
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500  
(800) 486-5714  
FAX: (615) 367-2480  
E-MAIL: [ethics@tbpr.org](mailto:ethics@tbpr.org)

**WILLIAM W. HUNT, III**  
**CHARLES A. HIGH**  
**SANDY GARRETT**  
**JESSE D. JOSEPH**  
**JAMES A. VICK**  
**THERESA M. COSTONIS**  
DISCIPLINARY COUNSEL

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: WILLIAM C. BARNES, JR., BPR #11399**  
**CONTACT: SANDY GARRETT**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

August 19, 2004

**COLUMBIA ATTORNEY CENSURED**

On August 12, 2004, William C. Barnes, Jr., of Columbia, Tennessee, received from the Board of Professional Responsibility a Public Censure. Barnes was given notice of the censure and did not request a hearing.

Barnes was retained by a client to file a personal injury case which Barnes did on February 28, 2003. Upon receiving Barnes' filed complaint, the client notified Barnes that he had sued the wrong defendant. The client complains that Barnes failed to accept or return his calls. On April 10, 2003, Barnes filed an amended complaint in the client's matter. On June 30, 2003, Barnes filed a second amended complaint. By letter dated November 26, 2003, Barnes advised the client that Barnes had lost the client's right to proceed with the lawsuit because of the mix-up regarding the defendant's name. Barnes' actions violates Rules 1.1; 1.3; 1.4, and 8.4 of the Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct. The censure declares Barnes' actions to be improper ethical conduct, but does not limit Barnes' right to practice law.

SG:mw

Barnes 27035 rel.doc