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SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
IN RE: RICHARD A. COUNTS, BPR #14027
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LAW LICENSE OF JOHNSON CITY ATTORNEY REINSTATED

On May 12, 2004, the Supreme Court reinstated the law license of attorney Richard A. Counts who last practiced law in Johnson City, Tennessee. He now resides in Naples, Florida.

On March 15, 2003, Mr. Counts voluntarily transferred his law license to Disability Inactive Status. Section 21, Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee provides that attorneys may transfer their law licenses to Disability Inactive Status, when their medical condition is such that they are incapacitated from continuing to practice law. Attorneys cannot practice law while on Disability Inactive Status.

Rule 9 states that an attorney cannot resume the practice of law until he/she establishes by clear and convincing evidence that his/her disability has been removed. In Mr. Counts' case, a hearing was held before a hearing panel of the Board of Professional Responsibility, after which the hearing panel recommended to the Supreme Court of Tennessee that Mr. Counts' be allowed to resume the practice of law. The Supreme Court's reinstatement of Mr. Counts' law license was based on the hearing panel's recommendation. There are now no restrictions upon Mr. Counts' ability to practice law.