



**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE**

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JOSEPH L. HORNICK, BPR #15205
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February 8, 2002

LAW LICENSE OF DICKSON ATTORNEY SUSPENDED

On January 29, 2002, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an order suspending the law license of Joseph I. Hornick for a period of thirty days.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a petition for discipline alleging that Hornick mishandled and failed to properly account for a portion of a client's settlement. Hornick failed to have or create a settlement sheet for his client and failed to have or create a client ledger sheet as required by trust accounting rules. Hornick acknowledged his failure to properly document trust receipts and disbursements and to maintain client ledger sheets. Hornick also acknowledged failing to correctly document checks disbursed to Hornick for attorney's fees. Hornick further acknowledged failing to properly reconcile his trust account until attending the Board of Professional Responsibility's Ethics Workshop in October 1999. Lastly, Hornick acknowledged commingling client's funds with Hornick's attorney's fees and Hornick's trust account. Hornick's counsel filed an answer to the petition for discipline and submitted a conditional guilty plea to the charges. Hornick's guilty plea was approved by a hearing panel, the Board of Professional Responsibility, and the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court of Tennessee on January 29, 2002 suspended Hornick for a period of thirty days. After Hornick serves this 30 day suspension, he may resume the practice of law without any reinstatement proceeding.

SG:mw

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