



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JOEL D. WHITENTON. BPR #18280
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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April 26, 2002

FORMER SPRINGFIELD ATTORNEY DISBARRED

On April 17, 2002, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an order disbaring Attorney Joel D. Whitenton.

On July 6, 2002, the Board of Professional Responsibility filed a petition for discipline against Whitenton based on complaints alleging Whitenton's neglect; misrepresentation to clients, creditors of clients, and the Board of Professional Responsibility; and failure to communicate. The Board filed subsequent petitions for discipline against Whitenton on October 24, 2000 and January 19, 2001 alleging similar misconduct by Whitenton of misrepresentation to clients and the Board of Professional Responsibility, neglect and failure to communicate. On June 6, 2001, a hearing committee recommended Whitenton be disbarred. Whitenton appealed the hearing panel's judgment on August 6, 2001. Whitenton later filed a notice of Voluntary Dismissal of his appeal and by order filed January 22, 2002, Whitenton's appeal of the hearing committee's recommendation of disbarment was dismissed. On April 17, 2002, the Supreme Court ordered that Whitenton be disbarred.

Whitenton's disciplinary case was tried pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 8 and 9. In Tennessee, disbarred lawyers may apply for reinstatement of their law licenses after five years. To be reinstated, Whitenton must show by clear and convincing evidence that his reinstatement will not be detrimental to the integrity and standing of the bar or the administration of justice or subversive to the public interest.

SG:mw

Whitenton 1182 rel.doc

