March 17, 2004

KNOX COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

Lisa Anne Temple, a Knox County attorney, was publicly censured by the Board of Professional Responsibility on March 17, 2004, for causing, on two occasions, incorrect disbursements to be made from client funds being held in trust to her former firm, where she was an associate, for unapproved fees. In one case, Ms. Temple attempted to remedy the error by making a disbursement to a client from the firm's operating account. Ms. Temple had also delayed for several months a disbursement of funds to which a client was entitled, and in one case delayed for several months making agreed disbursements out of an escrow account to creditors of a client, causing unnecessary interest to accumulate to the financial detriment of her client. Ms. Temple's conduct violated DR 1-102(A)(1)(5)(6), DR 2-106(A)(B), DR 7-101(A)(4)(a)(b)(c), and DR 9-102(A)(B) of the Code of Professional Responsibility. The Board found the following to be mitigating circumstances in Ms. Temple's case: Ms. Temple has no prior discipline, restitution was made to the affected clients by Ms. Temple and her former law firm, she has cooperated with the Board in this matter, she lacked significant experience in the handling of trust account matters at the time these events occurred, and she has expressed remorse.

A Public Censure is a form of public discipline which declares the conduct of the lawyer improper but does not limit the lawyer's right to practice law.