

IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT II
OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: TERRILL LEE ADKINS, #013138
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Knox County)

FILE NO. 64564-2-ES

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Terrill Lee Adkins, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered this matter at its meeting on March 12, 2021.

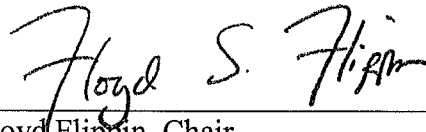
Mr. Adkins agreed to represent a defendant in a pending product liability trial, when an attorney at his office had previously been substantially involved in the same matter at a law firm which continued to represent the plaintiff. Mr. Adkins' colleague then left employment of Mr. Adkins' firm. Thereafter, the attorney returned to the employment of Mr. Adkins' firm, and the attorney reminded Mr. Adkins of his prior work on the still-pending case. Mr. Adkins' re-hired the attorney and attempted to put screening procedures in place. Because the attorney was substantially involved in the representation of the plaintiff in the matter, the screening procedures are not able to be used to avoid the imputed disqualification of Mr. Adkins' law firm under Rule 1.10(d) (imputation of conflicts of interest). Mr. Adkins' conduct resulted in harm to his client and prejudice to the administration of justice.

In the same matter, Mr. Adkins was granted approval for a limited deposition of an opposing attorney on particular substantive topics. After the deposition, Mr. Adkins issued a

subpoena for the employment file of the opposing attorney, seeking documents related to an alleged claim of sexual harassment made against the attorney in the course of his employment. The text of the subpoena described the documents sought in crass, sexist language. After a motion to quash was filed, Mr. Adkins withdrew the subpoena.

By these acts, Terrill Lee Adkins has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.10(d) (imputation of conflict of interest), Rule 4.4 (respect for rights of third persons) and Rule 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice) and is hereby publicly censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Floyd Flippin, Chair

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Date