



# BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: JOHN STEPHEN ANDERSON, BPR #12367**  
**CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

December 22, 2015

## **HAWKINS COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On December 22, 2015, John Stephen Anderson, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law in two disciplinary cases. In the first case, Mr. Anderson agreed to a suspension of one year and payment of restitution for two clients. In the second matter, Mr. Anderson agreed to suspension for five years, to be served consecutive to the suspension in the first matter, and payment of restitution to twelve (12) clients. The total amount of restitution is \$17,968.00 which must be paid as a condition to future reinstatement. Mr. Anderson must pay the Board of Professional Responsibility's costs and expenses and court costs within ninety days.

The first disciplinary proceeding (Docket No. 2013-2274-1-AW) consists of a Petition for Discipline filed November 25, 2013, and a Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed April 25, 2014. A hearing panel found that Mr. Anderson failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness, failed to obtain written waivers from former clients regarding a conflict of interest, failed to reasonably communicate with his clients, made false statements and material misrepresentations to the Court and his clients, and engaged in misconduct involving dishonesty, deceit or misrepresentations. Mr. Anderson filed an appeal of the hearing panel's decision, but subsequently submitted a Conditional Guilty Plea admitting a violation of Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC) 1.3 (diligence); 1.4 (communication); 1.9 (duties to former clients); 3.3 (candor toward the tribunal); and 8.4 (misconduct).

The second disciplinary proceeding (Docket No. 2015-2433-1-AW) consists of a Petition for Discipline filed March 13, 2015, and a Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed June 2, 2015, alleging professional misconduct in fifteen (15) complaints. In general, Mr. Anderson failed to represent his clients in a diligent and/or competent manner, failed to perform legal work for which he was hired, engaged in the unauthorized practice of law while temporarily suspended, failed to safeguard client property, and made misrepresentations to his clients about the status of their cases.

Mr. Anderson submitted a Conditional Guilty Plea admitting violations of RPC 1.2 (scope of representation); 1.3 (diligence); 1.4 (communication); 1.5 (fees); 1.12 (former judge or arbitrator); 1.15 (safekeeping of property and funds); 1.16 (terminating representation); 3.1 (meritorious claims and contentions); 3.2 (expediting litigation); 3.3 (candor toward the tribunal); 3.4 (fairness to opposing party and counsel); 5.3 (responsibilities regarding non-lawyer assistants); 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law); 8.1 (bar admission and disciplinary matters) and 8.4 (misconduct).

Mr. Anderson must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedures for reinstatement.