



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: DEREK A. ARTRIP, BPR #26784
CONTACT: WILLIAM C. MOODY
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

August 12, 2015

WEST VIRGINIA ATTORNEY DISBARRED

On August 12, 2015, Derek A. Artrip of Ona, West Virginia was disbarred by the Tennessee Supreme Court. The disbarment is effective immediately. Further, Mr. Artrip must pay the Board of Professional Responsibility's costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline based upon Mr. Artrip's representation of a plaintiff in a personal injury case. Mr. Artrip did not respond to written discovery, did not respond to a motion to compel, and did not respond to a motion to dismiss. After nonsuiting the case, Mr. Artrip failed to timely refile the case despite telling his client that he would do so. Thereafter, Mr. Artrip made misrepresentations to his client leading him to believe that the case was ongoing. Mr. Artrip failed to notify his client of his temporary suspension, his one (1) year suspension on May 9, 2013, and his disbarment on November 14, 2013. Mr. Artrip abandoned his client and failed to properly terminate their relationship. He also failed to respond to a request for information from the Board.

A Hearing Panel found Mr. Artrip's actions violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct: 1.1, Competence; 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.16, Declining and Terminating Representation; 8.1(b), Bar Admissions and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4(a), (c) and (g), Misconduct.

In unrelated cases, Mr. Artrip was previously suspended for one (1) year on May 9, 2013, and disbarred on November 14, 2013. To date, Mr. Artrip has not been reinstated from his previous suspension and disbarment.

Mr. Artrip must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

Artrip 2410-0 rel.doc