



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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October 11, 2006

KINGSTON LAWYER SUSPENDED

Thomas Alva Austin, a Kingston lawyer, was summarily suspended from the practice of law by the Tennessee Supreme Court on October 6, 2006. Mr. Austin pled guilty to a serious crime, i.e., extortion, and was sentenced to forty two (42) months on September 7, 2006.

Section 18 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 requires Mr. Austin to notify by registered or certified mail all clients being represented in pending matters; all co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court's Order suspending him. Section 18 of Tennessee Supreme court Rule 9 also requires Mr. Austin to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled. Mr. Austin is further prohibited from maintaining a presence where the practice of law is conducted and required to remove and refrain from use of any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, law clerk or similar title.

The Court further ordered that this matter be referred to the Board of Professional Responsibility for institution of a formal proceeding in which the sole issue to be determined shall be the extent of the final discipline to be imposed as a result of Mr. Austin's guilty plea.

Austin 1634-2 rel.doc

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