



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: RENFRO BLACKBURN BAIRD, BPR# 13150**  
**CONTACT: ALAN D. JOHNSON**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

October 7, 2014

**HAWKINS COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED**

On October 6, 2014, Renfro Blackburn Baird, of Hawkins County, Tennessee, was publicly censured by the Tennessee Supreme Court.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Baird pursuant to Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court. Mr. Baird submitted a Conditional Guilty Plea acknowledging violation of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 8, Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence) 1.4 (communication) 1.5 (fees) 1.15 (safekeeping property) 1.16 (declining and terminating representation) 3.2 (expediting litigation) and 8.4(a) (misconduct).

Mr. Baird was paid a retainer to pursue a post conviction petition. He promised that if he was not successful, he would refund a portion of the fee. Mr. Baird performed minimal work and failed to maintain the fee in his trust account. He also failed to keep his client informed about the case and did not promptly refund any portion of the fee upon being terminated.

As a condition of his plea, Mr. Baird must refund the fee pursuant to the terms of a promissory note he signed in favor of his client.

For these violations, the Tennessee Supreme Court publicly censured Renfro Blackburn Baird. A public censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Baird 2278-1 rel.doc

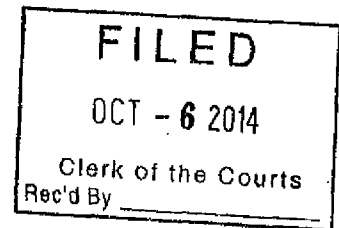
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE  
AT NASHVILLE

**IN RE: RENFRO BLACKBURN BAIRD, III, BPR #13150**  
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee  
(Hawkins County)

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**No. M2014-01899-SC-BAR-BP**  
BOPR No. 2014-2278-1-AJ

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**ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT**

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Renfro Blackburn Baird, III, on December 18, 2013; upon Response to Petition for Discipline filed by Mr. Baird on February 14, 2014; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Mr. Baird on September 3, 2014; upon Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on September 8, 2014; upon consideration and approval by the Board on September 19, 2014; and upon the entire record in this cause<sup>1</sup>.

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea as the Court's Order.

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

(1) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.4 (2006), Renfro Blackburn Baird, III, is publicly censured.

(2) Mr. Baird shall make restitution to Ms. Beatrice Penley according to the terms of the Promissory Note he has signed agreeing to pay her \$625.00 per month until the remaining balance of \$5,000.00 has been paid. In the event restitution to Ms. Penley is paid by the Tennessee Lawyers Fund for Client Protection (TLFCP), Mr. Baird shall reimburse TLFCP the amount so paid. Full payment of restitution by Mr. Baird according to the terms of the Promissory Note is a condition of this Order and failure to comply with this provision shall constitute a separate violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC) and subject Mr. Baird to future disciplinary proceedings.

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<sup>1</sup> Because this matter was initiated before the Board prior to January 1, 2014, Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 (2006) is the governing authority except where otherwise noted.

(3) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3 (2006), Mr. Baird shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$548.56, and shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.

(4) The Board shall cause notice of this discipline to be published pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10 (2006).

PER CURIAM