



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: WILLIAM CLARK BARNES, BPR #11399
CONTACT: WILLIAM C. MOODY
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

April 1, 2015

FORMER MAURY COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On March 31, 2015, William Clark Barnes, of Memphis, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for three (3) years, with six (6) months active suspension and two (2) years and six (6) months to be served on probation. The order was effective upon entry. Mr. Barnes must pay the Board's costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

Mr. Barnes failed to timely file a brief in a criminal appeal, failed to diligently prepare a personal injury lawsuit necessitating its voluntary dismissal, failed to consult with his clients prior to voluntarily dismissing that case, was not diligent in his representation of a party to a divorce, failed to advise his client in an employment discrimination matter that her case was dismissed on summary judgment, failed to timely file a brief in another criminal appeal, and failed to adequately communicate with a client in a custody matter. Mr. Barnes entered into a Conditional Guilty Plea admitting to the misconduct.

Mr. Barnes' actions violated RPC 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.16 (declining and terminating representation), 3.2 (expediting litigation) and 8.4(a) (misconduct).

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