



**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.

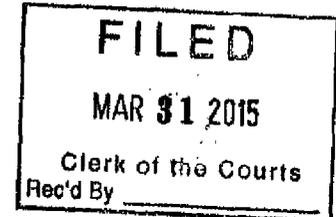
Mr. Barnes' actions violated RPC 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.16 (declining and terminating representation), 3.2 (expediting litigation) and 8.4(a) (misconduct).

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.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: WILLIAM CLARK BARNES, BPR #11399
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Maury County)

No. M2015-00508-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2014-2379-6-WM



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against William Clark Barnes on October 2, 2014; upon an Answer filed by Mr. Barnes on November 3, 2014; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Mr. Barnes on February 18, 2015; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on February 25, 2015; upon consideration and approval by the Board on March 13, 2015; and upon the entire record in this cause.

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) Attorney William Clark Barnes is suspended for three (3) years with six (6) months to be served as an active suspension, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.2 (2014), and the remaining two (2) years and six (6) months to be served on probation, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 14.1 (2014), subject to the following conditions of probation:

- a. Mr. Barnes shall contact the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program ("TLAP") for evaluation. If TLAP determines that a monitoring agreement is appropriate, Mr. Barnes shall comply with the terms and conditions of the TLAP monitoring agreement.
- b. Mr. Barnes shall participate in regular Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and provide proof of his attendance to the Board if requested.

- c. For the period of probation, Mr. Barnes shall continue and complete treatment as recommended by his psychiatrist.
 - d. During the period of suspension and probation, Mr. Barnes shall incur no new complaints of misconduct that relate to conduct occurring during the period of suspension and probation and which result in the recommendation by the Board that discipline be imposed.
 - e. Within fifteen (15) days of the entry of an Order of Enforcement, Mr. Barnes shall provide to the Board a list of three (3) proposed practice monitors in accordance with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.9. After designation by the Board of a practice monitor, Mr. Barnes shall engage the practice monitor who shall provide a monthly report to the Board regarding Mr. Barnes' office management procedures, client communication, attendance at Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and compliance with his psychiatrist's treatment recommendations.
- (2) Additionally, Mr. Barnes shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.
- (3) While suspended, Mr. Barnes remains obligated to fulfill all CLE requirements and to pay annual registration fees. Mr. Barnes must meet all CLE requirements and pay all annual registration fees prior to petitioning for reinstatement.
- (4) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1 (2014), this Order shall be effective upon entry.
- (5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d) (2014), Mr. Barnes shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$803.04 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.
- (6) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11 (2014).

PER CURIAM