



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

1101 KERMIT DRIVE, SUITE 730
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37217
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500
(800) 486-5714
FAX: (615) 367-2480
E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org
Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: WILLIAM BARNES, JR., BPR# 11399
CONTACT: RACHEL L. WATERHOUSE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

April 15, 2010

COLUMBIA LAWYER CENSURED

On April 15, 2010, William Barnes, Jr., a Tennessee attorney, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

In representation of his client, Mr. Barnes drafted an Agreed Order that incorrectly memorialized a visitation agreement between his client and the child's mother. Mr. Barnes admits his error in allowing opposing counsel to sign his name and file the Agreed Order without Mr. Barnes again reviewing it. The incorrect Agreed Order, which was adverse to the client's rights and his relationship with his child, was filed and entered in October 2008, two months after the agreement.

Mr. Barnes failed to send the filed Agreed Order to his client, who received a copy of it from the child's mother five months after filing. In the meantime, Mr. Barnes had his client sign a Petition allowing his client visitation on his military leaves, but he never set it for hearing. The Petition contains an error and is inadequate to address the contested issue.

Mr. Barnes' actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence) and 1.4 (communication) and is hereby Publicly Censured for those violations.

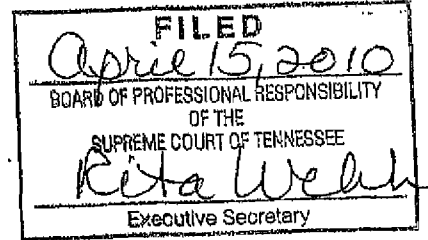
A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Barnes 32050-6 rel.doc.

PLEASE NOTE

YOU MAY SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE INFORMATIONAL RELEASES, FORMAL ETHICS OPINIONS, NEWSLETTERS AND ANNUAL REPORTS ELECTRONICALLY BY SIGNING IN AT THE BOARD'S WEBSITE

www.tbpr.org/Subscriptions



IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT VI
OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: WILLIAM BARNES, JR., BPR NO. 11399
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Maury County)

FILE NO. 32050-6-JV

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against William Barnes, Jr., an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on March 12, 2010.

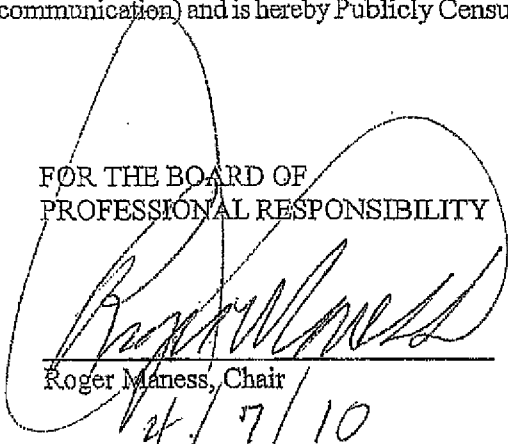
Respondent represented Complainant in child legitimation and visitation matters. Complainant serves in the U.S. Army and was deployed to Iraq during part of the representation. In August 2008, Complainant and the child's mother agreed on visitation during Complainant's military leaves. Respondent's draft of an Agreed Order memorializing the agreement was incorrect. Respondent said several times that he would correct it, but he never did. Respondent admits his error in allowing opposing counsel to sign his name and file the Agreed Order without Respondent reviewing it. The incorrect Agreed Order was filed and entered in October 2008, two months after the agreement.

Respondent failed to send the filed Agreed Order to Complainant, who received a copy of it from the child's mother five months after filing. In the meantime, in December 2008, Respondent had Complainant sign a Petition allowing Complainant visitation on his military leaves, but he never

set it for hearing. The Petition contains an error and is inadequate to address the contested issue. Beginning in mid-December 2008, Respondent stopped communicating with Complainant or his father about the status of the matter. The Agreed Order is adverse to Complainant's rights and his relationship with his child. Respondent has past disciplinary history for similar conduct.

By the aforementioned facts, William Barnes, Jr., has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence) and 1.4 (communication) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Roger Maness, Chair

24 / 7 / 10
Date