



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

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

October 30, 2015

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On October 28, 2015, William Clark Barnes, Jr., an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

During the representation of a client in a civil lawsuit, Mr. Barnes's law license was suspended for failing to comply with continuing legal education requirements. After the suspension of his license, Mr. Barnes did not provide notice of the suspension to his client as required by Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 28. When the Court denied Mr. Barnes's request that the trial be continued, Mr. Barnes made no further efforts to protect the client's interests. Additionally, Mr. Barnes did not promptly surrender the client's file to the client's subsequent attorney.

By these acts, William Clark Barnes, Jr. has violated Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 28, and Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), and 1.16(d) (terminating representation), and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

In relation to a prior disciplinary matter on March 31, 2015, Mr. Barnes was suspended for three years with six months to be served as active suspension and the remainder to be served on probation. Mr. Barnes has not sought reinstatement from the active suspension.

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