



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
ROSS ALLEN BARTON, BPR #22672
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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February 12, 2009

HENDERSONVILLE LAWYER SUSPENDED

On February 9, 2009, the Tennessee Supreme Court suspended Ross Allen Barton, of Hendersonville, Tennessee, for twenty-nine (29) months during which five (5) months will be served as active suspension beginning on April 1, 2009. The remaining twenty-four (24) months will be probated subject to several conditions. Mr. Barton must remain compliant with the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP) and he is required to contribute ten (10) hours of pro bono service for each month of his probation. Failure to comply with the terms of probation may result in revocation of the probationary period and imposition of license suspension for the remainder of the period. Mr. Barton is also ordered to pay the Board's costs in this matter.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Barton on October 3, 2007, pursuant to Rule 9 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. Mr. Barton entered a Conditional Guilty Plea which was accepted and approved by a Hearing Panel. In January, 2007, Mr. Barton was arrested and charged with burglary, misdemeanor theft and prescription fraud. Mr. Barton's criminal charges were resolved by a Memorandum of Understanding for Suspension of Prosecution placing Respondent on diversion for a period of two (2) years. He has remained compliant with both TLAP and the conditions of his diversion.

Mr. Barton's actions violate Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4, Misconduct.

Mr. Barton must comply with Section 18 of Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

Barton 1709-5 rel.doc

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