

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

IN RE: JAMES A. H. BELL, BPR NO. 775
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Knox County)

FILE NO. 32472-2-KB

PUBLIC CENSURE

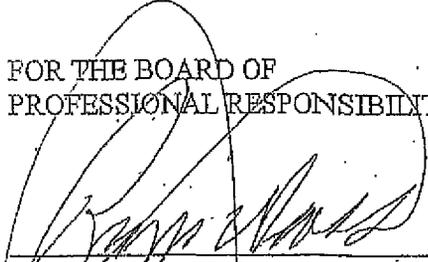
The above complaint was filed against James A. H. Bell, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered this matter at its meeting on December 11, 2009.

On August 13, 2009, U. S. Magistrate Judge Clifford Shirley, Jr., U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Tennessee, found Respondent in criminal contempt beyond a reasonable doubt for misrepresentations made with the intent to obstruct the business of the Court and the administration of justice. U. S. Magistrate Judge Shirley's opinion was timely forwarded to the Board by the Respondent, and this fact was regarded by the Board as a self-report. That court held that Respondent had intentionally, willfully and knowingly made misrepresentations about a meeting with a person who later was a co-defendant in a criminal case in which Respondent represented another co-defendant. That court specifically found that the misrepresentations were not honest mistakes based on a flawed memory or mistaken belief. That court fined Respondent the maximum of \$5,000. The court stated that "[T]his occurrence appears to be a one-time blemish on an otherwise lengthy and commendable record of legal representation."

By the aforementioned opinion of the court, James A. H. Bell has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 3.3(a)(1) and 8.4(d) and is hereby Publicly Censured for those violations.

On July 14, 2009, the Board had previously dismissed the Respondent's earlier self-report of the matter addressed by U. S. Magistrate Judge Shirley.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Roger Marzess, Chair

3/4/10

Date