



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: JAMES A. H. BELL, BPR# 775**  
**CONTACT: RACHEL L. WATERHOUSE**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

March 5, 2010

**KNOXVILLE LAWYER CENSURED**

On March 4, 2010, James A. H. Bell, a Tennessee attorney, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

On August 13, 2009, U. S. Magistrate Judge Clifford Shirley, Jr., U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Tennessee, found Mr. Bell 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. The Court held that Mr. Bell 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 Mr. Bell represented another co-defendant. The Court specifically found that the misrepresentations were not honest mistakes based on a flawed memory or mistaken belief. The Court fined Mr. Bell the maximum of \$5,000 and stated that "[T]his occurrence appears to be a one-time blemish on an otherwise lengthy and commendable record of legal representation." Mr. Bell self-reported the Court's decision to the Board.

Mr. Bell's actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 3.3(a) (false statement) and 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice) and is hereby Publicly Censured for those violations.

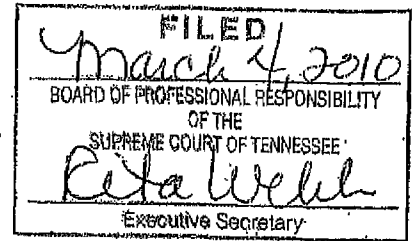
A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Bell 32472-2 rel.doc

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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

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PUBLIC CENSURE

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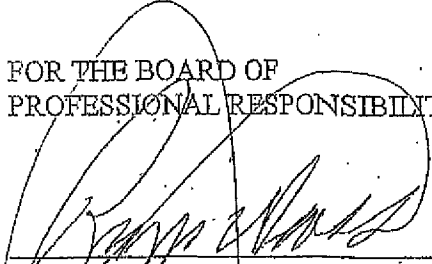
The above complaint was filed against James A. H. Bell, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered this matter at its meeting on December 11, 2009.

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



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Roger Marzess, Chair

3/1/10  

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Date