



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
MICHELLE L. BETSERAI, BPR# 019968
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

July 20, 2012

MEMPHIS LAWYER SUSPENDED

On July 18, 2012, Michelle L. Betseraï, of Memphis, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for two (2) years. She was further ordered to pay restitution to four (4) complainants and costs to the Board of Professional Responsibility.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline on November 30, 2009 containing four complaints of misconduct. A Supplemental Petition for Discipline was filed on October 3, 2011 containing one complaint of misconduct. Ms. Betseraï failed to diligently represent her clients by failing to file pleadings in a timely manner which resulted in adverse outcomes for her clients. Ms. Betseraï failed to enter a final decree after a divorce hearing and the case was later dismissed for lack of prosecution. Ms. Betseraï promised to file a motion to set aside the dismissal but she failed to do so. In other cases, Ms. Betseraï failed to file an answer to a counter-complaint in a divorce and a default judgment was taken against her client. Ms. Betseraï also abandoned her practice by moving out of state without completing or handling pending matters for clients. Finally, Ms. Betseraï made misrepresentations during testimony as an expert witness about belonging to a bar association and about her level of participation in an appeal.

Her actions violate the following Rules of Professional Conduct: 1.1, Competence; 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.5(a) and (b), Fees; 1.16(d), Declining and Terminating Representation; 3.2, Expediting Litigation; 8.1(b) Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4(a), (c) and (d), Misconduct.

Ms. Betseraï must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 and 19, should she seek reinstatement of her Tennessee law license and she may not resume practice until reinstated by further order of the Court.

Betseraï 1866-9 rel.doc

PLEASE NOTE

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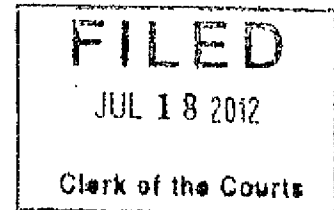
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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE MICHELLE L. BETSERAI, BPR #019968

An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

No. M2012-01423-SC-BPR-BP
BOPR No. 2009-1866-9-KH



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed November 30, 2009 in Docket No. 2009-1866-9-KH by the Board of Professional Responsibility ("Board") against Michelle L. Betserai; upon a Motion for Default Judgment and That Allegations Contained in Petition for Discipline Be Admitted filed by the Board on May 7, 2010; upon an Order of Default Judgment entered by the Hearing Panel on September 3, 2010; upon a Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed by the Board on October 3, 2011; upon a Motion for Default Judgment and That Allegations Contained in Supplemental Petition for Discipline Be Admitted filed by the Board on January 24, 2012; upon an Order of Default Judgment entered by the Hearing Panel on February 28, 2012; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Ms. Betserai on March 30, 2012; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on April 20, 2012; upon consideration and approval by the Board on June 22, 2012; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the recommendation of the Hearing Panel and accepts the Conditional Guilty Plea.

It is therefore, ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the Court that:

1. Michelle L. Betserai shall be and is hereby suspended from the practice of law for two (2) years pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.2.
2. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §4.7, Ms. Betserai shall pay restitution to the following individuals. Payment of restitution shall be a condition precedent to reinstatement.

Martha Jackson:	\$750.00
Rodney Williams:	\$750.00
Kendrick Williams:	\$2,850.00
Kitty Layden:	\$4,500.00

3. The suspension shall become effective ten (10) days after the filing of this Order.

4. Ms. Betseraï shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18 and §19 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and procedure for reinstatement.

5. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3, Ms. Betseraï shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,321.67 and, in addition, shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.

6. The Board shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10.

FOR THE COURT:



WILLIAM C. KOCH, JR., JUSTICE