February 22, 2008

WILLIAMSON COUNTY ATTORNEY CENSURED

Charles G. Blackard, III, a Brentwood, Tennessee, attorney, was publicly censured by the Board of Professional Responsibility on February 13, 2008. A public censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney’s right to practice law.

The censure was based on Mr. Blackard’s actions in two separate complaints. Both cases were domestic relations cases. In both cases, Mr. Blackard failed to keep the clients informed regarding their cases, and he failed to respond to reasonable requests for information regarding the cases.

Mr. Blackard failed to make reasonable efforts to expedite the cases. Mr. Blackard failed to respond to requests for information by the Board of Professional Responsibility.

Mr. Blackard violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.3 [diligence and promptness]; 1.4 [client communication]; 3.2 [expediting litigation]; 8.1 [failure to respond to inquiry]; and 8.4(a)(d) [conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice]. Mr. Blackard is censured for these violations.

The Rules of Professional Conduct are mandatory for all attorneys. They state a minimum level of conduct and any violation reflects negatively on the standing and integrity of the bar.

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