



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

10 CADILLAC DRIVE, SUITE 220
BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500
(800) 486-5714
FAX: (615) 367-2480
E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org
Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: DOUGLAS NEIL BLACKWELL, II, BPR #019298
CONTACT: KEVIN D. BALKWILL
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

October 15, 2018

BRADLEY COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On October 15, 2018, Douglas Neil Blackwell, II, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Blackwell accepted a refundable retainer fee from a client in a conservatorship proceeding without depositing the fee into his client trust account until earned. Mr. Blackwell failed to diligently represent his client's interest and failed to properly communicate with his client. Mr. Blackwell failed to include critical documentation with legal pleadings. After he was removed from representation, Mr. Blackwell failed to provide his former client with the client file. Mr. Blackwell's fee affidavit was found to be unreasonable and based upon misrepresentations.

By these acts, Douglas Neil Blackwell, II, has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), 1.15 (safekeeping property), 1.16 (terminating representation), 3.2 (expediting litigation), 3.3 (candor toward tribunal), 8.1(b) (disciplinary matters), and 8.4(a)(c)(d) (misconduct) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

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

Blackwell 56988-3 rel.doc

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

IN RE: Douglas Neil Blackwell, Respondent,
BPR# 19298, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee.
(Bradley County)

FILE NO. 56988-3-KB

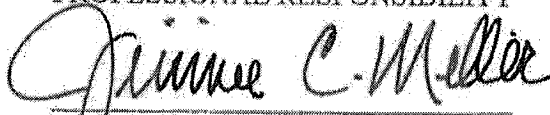
PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Douglas Neil Blackwell, 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 these matters at its meeting on September 14, 2018.

Mr. Blackwell accepted a refundable retainer fee from a client in a conservatorship proceeding without depositing the fee into his client trust account until earned. Mr. Blackwell failed to diligently represent his client's interest in the matter by delaying the filing of a petition for nearly a year. The petition filed by Mr. Blackwell did not include a proper physician's affidavit nor was a proposed property management plan ever filed. Mr. Blackwell thereafter failed to adequately communicate with his client or appear in court for status conferences. The court ultimately removed Mr. Blackwell as counsel and appointed other counsel to represent the client. Mr. Blackwell failed to provide his former client with the client file. Mr. Blackwell later filed a fee affidavit at the request of the court which contained material misrepresentations and the court found the fee to be unreasonable. The court ordered Mr. Blackwell to refund the fees to the former client which he did. Mr. Blackwell also failed to adequately respond to inquiries from the Board. By the aforementioned acts, Douglas Neil Blackwell, has violated Rules of Professional Conduct

1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), 1.15 (safekeeping property), 1.16 (terminating representation), 3.2 (expediting litigation), 3.3 (candor toward tribunal), 8.1(b) (disciplinary matters), and 8.4(a)(c)(d) (misconduct) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Jimmie Miller, Chair

10-15-10

Date