



**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
of the  
**SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE**

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**ROBERT L. BOOKER, BPR #24887**  
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**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
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January 26, 2007

**TENNESSEE ATTORNEY PUBLICLY CENSURED**

Robert L. Booker, a Tennessee attorney, residing in California, was publicly censured by the Board of Professional Responsibility on January 24, 2007.

The U. S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit reported to the Board of Professional Responsibility that on April 12, 2005, the Court suspended Robert L. Booker from the bar of the Ninth Circuit for eighteen (18) months to run concurrently with his Utah suspension. The Ninth Circuit Court Order suspending Booker stated he could apply for reinstatement to the Court's bar if he was reinstated to practice in Utah or admitted to practice in another state.

Booker moved for reinstatement based upon his admission to practice in Tennessee and stated that he intended to take the July, 2006 bar examination in California. The Court noted that the stationery used by Booker identified him as "attorney at law" and showed a California address without a clarifying statement that Booker was admitted and eligible to practice only in Tennessee. The Court stated that the use of such stationery may be misleading to the public and may also constitute the unauthorized practice of law in California. The Court ordered Booker to take "the necessary steps, including correcting his stationer, to address this concern".

In addition, the U. S. Court of appeals for the Ninth Circuit found that Booker appeared at the Court's front desk to file a notice of appearance as retained counsel for an appellant in a pro se appeal from an April 25, 2006 District Court Order revoking the client's supervised release. Booker was informed by a court employee that it would be inappropriate for him to appear before the Court while his Petition for Reinstatement was pending. Booker, nevertheless, submitted the notice of appearance for filing. The Court found that Booker exhibited poor judgment by submitting the notice of appearance after receiving notice that it would be inappropriate to do so, in light of his suspension from the bar of the Court and the fact that the Court had not yet acted upon his request to be reinstated. The Court directed that the clerk not enter Booker's appearance on the docket and appointed new counsel for the appellant.

The Board of Professional Responsibility concluded that Booker violated Rules 7.1(a), 5.5(a) and 8.4(a)(d) of the Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct. The Board publicly censured Booker and closed the file.

Booker 29317-0 rel.doc

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