Robert C. Brooks, of Memphis, was publicly censured by the Board of Professional Responsibility on June 27, 2006. The censure was issued by the Board pursuant to Rule 9, Section 8 of the Rules of the Tennessee Supreme Court. Brooks initially requested a hearing on the matter, but later withdrew his request and agreed to accept the censure.

In one complaint filed against Brooks by the Chief Judge of the U.S. District Court for the Western Division of Tennessee, the Board found that in 2004 Brooks negligently engaged in solicitation of attorney fees from a defendant’s family while he was serving as appointed counsel for the indigent defendant in a federal criminal matter, without obtaining permission from the U.S. District Court prior to engaging in such solicitation, as was required by federal law.

The Board found mitigating Brooks’ remorse and apology to the U.S. District Court, the lack of any intent on his part to violate either the Rules of Professional Conduct or federal requirements, and his overall favorable reputation for character in the legal community.