



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: STEPHEN M. BROWN, #9749
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

January 30, 2007

MEMPHIS LAWYER CENSURED

Stephen M. Brown, of Memphis, was publicly censured by the Board of Professional Responsibility on January 26, 2007. The censure was issued by the Board pursuant to Rule 9, Section 8 of the Rules of the Tennessee Supreme Court. Brown did not request a hearing on the matter.

A complaint alleging ethical misconduct was filed against Brown involving his possible unauthorized practice of law while suspended. The Board found that on August 3, 2006, Brown improperly prepared, signed and filed an Answer in a civil action in Shelby County Circuit Court on behalf of a corporate defendant, as Vice-President of the corporation. Brown had been Vice-President of the corporation for two years as of the late summer of 2006, but he was suspended from the practice of law for forty-five days beginning on July 28, 2006, pursuant to the Tennessee Supreme Court's July 18, 2006 order filed in an unrelated matter.

The Board concluded that Brown's actions constituted the unauthorized practice of law while he was suspended, and that he should have known that preparation, signing and filing of the Answer on behalf of the corporation as Vice-President would be ethically improper. The Board also found somewhat mitigating the facts that he ceased providing legal services and ensured that the corporation retained separate counsel in the underlying civil action immediately after opposing counsel informed him that a licensed attorney was required in order to represent a corporation.

Brown 29430-9 rel.doc

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