



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: SPENCE ROBERTS BRUNER, BPR #19056**  
**CONTACT: ALAN D. JOHNSON**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

December 22, 2015

**ROANE COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED**

On December 21, 2015, Spence Roberts Bruner, of Harriman, Tennessee, was disbarred by the Tennessee Supreme Court and ordered to pay restitution totaling \$4,250. The disbarment took effect immediately. Mr. Bruner must pay the Board of Professional Responsibility's costs and expenses and court costs within ninety days.

A Petition for Discipline was filed on March 28, 2014, and a Supplemental Petition for Discipline was filed on October 6, 2014. The Petitions contained five (5) complaints alleging that Mr. Bruner failed to diligently represent his clients, failed to communicate with his clients and failed to respond to Disciplinary Counsel investigating this case.

The Hearing Panel determined that Mr. Bruner violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3, (Diligence); 1.4, (Communication); 8.1, (Bar and Disciplinary Matters) and 8.4(a), (Misconduct).

Should Mr. Bruner petition for reinstatement, he must establish that he has paid restitution to his former clients, and complied with any recommendations of the Tennessee Lawyer Assistance Program.

In an unrelated case, Mr. Bruner was suspended from the practice of law for ninety days for disciplinary misconduct on January 31, 2014. To date, Mr. Bruner has not been reinstated from his previous suspension.

Mr. Bruner must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE  
AT NASHVILLE

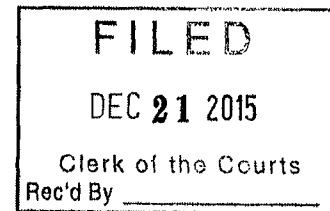
**IN RE: SPENCE ROBERTS BRUNER, BPR #19056**

An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee  
(Roane County)

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No. M2015-02409-SC-BAR-BP  
BOPR No. 2015-2307-2-AJ

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**ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT**

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Spence Roberts Bruner, on March 28, 2014; upon Motion for Default Judgment and that the Allegations Contained in the Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed on July 30, 2014; upon Order for Default entered on September 11, 2014; upon a Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed on October 6, 2014; upon Motion for Default Judgment and that the Allegations Contained in the Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed on December 18, 2014; upon Order for Default entered on December 29, 2014; upon a Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed on January 30, 2015; upon Motion for Default Judgment and that the Allegations Contained in the Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed on April 8, 2015; upon Order for Default entered on April 22, 2015; upon the Board of Professional Responsibility's Application for Assessment of Costs filed on July 16, 2015; upon Judgment of the Hearing Panel entered on August 17, 2015; upon service of the Judgment of the Hearing Panel on Mr. Bruner by the Executive Secretary of the Board on August 17, 2015; upon Judgment on the Board of Professional Responsibility's Application for Assessment of Costs entered on October 5, 2015; upon service of the Judgment on the Board of Professional Responsibility's Application for Assessment of Costs on Mr. Bruner by the Executive Secretary of the Board on October 6, 2015; upon consideration and approval by the Board on October 17, 2015; upon expiration of the appeal period with no appeal taken; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Judgment as the Court's Order.

On February 19, 2014, Mr. Bruner was temporarily suspended by this Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.3 (M2014-00287-SC-BAR-BP). On January 31,

2014, in Case No. M2014-00189-SC-BAR-BP, this Court suspended Mr. Bruner from the practice of law for ninety (90) days for disciplinary misconduct. To date, Mr. Bruner has not requested, nor been reinstatement.

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

(1) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.1 (2006) and Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.1 (2014), Spence Roberts Bruner is disbarred from the practice of law.

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.7 (2006) and Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.7 (2014), and as a condition precedent to any reinstatement, Mr. Bruner shall make restitution to the following individuals and shall furnish to the Board of Professional Responsibility proof of restitution. In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection (TLFCP), Mr. Bruner shall reimburse TLFCP in the same amount:

- (a) Trampas William Heaton – \$750.00
- (b) Tammy Respass – \$300.00
- (c) Regions Trust, Financial Guardian of James Lombardo – \$1,200.00
- (d) Kimberly West – \$2,000.00

(3) As a condition of reinstatement, Mr. Bruner must present proof that he has made restitution as set forth above, and proof that he has undergone treatment for those issues that placed him the Tennessee Lawyer Assistance Program. Upon reinstatement, Mr. Bruner shall be supervised, at his own expense, by a practice monitor for a period of at least twelve (12) months.

(4) Mr. Bruner shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18 (2006) and Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 30.4 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

(5) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Bruner must meet all CLE requirements and pay any outstanding registration fees including those due from the date of disbarment to reinstatement.

(6) Further, the Order of Temporary Suspension entered on February 19, 2015 in M2014-00287-SC-BAR-BP is hereby dissolved.

(7) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.5 (2006), this Order shall be effective ten (10) days after the date of entry.

(8) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3 (2006), Mr. Bruner shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,224.27 and shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.

(9) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10 (2006).

PER CURIAM