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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

EXEC. SECT

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

IN RE: ROBERT THOMAS CARTER,

BPR #013185, Respondent
An Attorney Licensed and
Admitted to the Practice of
Law in Tennessee
(Coffee County)

FILE NO. 33569-4-SG

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Robert Thomas Carter, 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 March 11, 2011.

The Respondent represented the Complainant in State v. Watson. The Complainant was sentenced and the Respondent appealed the Complainant's sentence of concurrent sentences of eight (8) years, with One Hundred Twenty (120) days in confinement and the remainder served on community corrections. By Order filed July 13, 2010, the Court of Criminal Appeals affirmed the Complainant's sentence based upon the Respondent's failure to include the sentencing hearing transcript causing the Court of Criminal Appeals to be unable to determine whether the trial court considered the necessary sentencing principles. The Respondent failed to advise the Complainant of the necessity of having a Court Reporter present for the Complainant's sentencing hearing.

By the above acts, the Respondent violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence),

1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication) and 8.4(a) (misconduct).

Cola Hollabaugh, Chair

April 25, 2011