



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: RICHARD D. CARTWRIGHT, BPR# 11242
CONTACT: KRISANN HODGES
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

June 22, 2010

FORMER COVINGTON LAWYER DISBARRED

On June 17, 2010, Richard D. Cartwright, formerly of Covington, Tennessee, was disbarred by the Tennessee Supreme Court. As of the date of this disbarment, Mr. Cartwright was also serving a three (3) year suspension from a prior disciplinary matter. He had been temporarily suspended by the Court pursuant to Section 4.3 of Supreme Court Rule 9 on December 3, 2009 for failing to comply with the Tennessee Lawyer's Assistance Program. Finally, he was suspended by the Commission on Continuing Legal Education on August 17, 2009, for noncompliance.

On June 9, 2009, the Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline containing thirty-three (33) complaints of misconduct against Mr. Cartwright. A Supplemental Petition for Discipline was filed against Mr. Cartwright on August 12, 2009, containing four (4) additional complaints of misconduct. Mr. Cartwright did not file an answer to either petition. A Hearing Panel granted a default judgment recommending that Mr. Cartwright be disbarred and pay restitution to thirty-six (36) former clients. Mr. Cartwright abandoned his practice immediately following the entry of a prior disciplinary order of suspension and did not inform clients or courts of the suspension. In twenty-seven (27) of the complaints, Mr. Cartwright failed to inform clients of his suspension as required by Section 18 of Supreme Court Rule 9 thus resulting in his failure to return client property and legal fees. All of the complaints contain allegations of lack of communication and lack of diligence. Mr. Cartwright also failed to respond to the Board's inquiries in thirty-four (34) of the complaints in violation of Rule of Professional Conduct 8.1.

Mr. Cartwright's actions violate the following Rules of Professional Conduct: 1.1, Competence; 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.5, Fees; 1.16, Declining and Terminating Representation; 3.2, Expediting Litigation; 8.1, Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4, Misconduct.

Mr. Cartwright must comply with Sections 18 and 19 of Supreme Court Rule regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement. He must pay the Board's costs and expenses prior to reinstatement to the practice of law.

Cartwright 1823-8 rel.doc

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