



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

10 CADILLAC DRIVE, SUITE 220  
BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027  
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500  
(800) 486-5714  
FAX: (615) 367-2480  
E-MAIL: [ethics@tbpr.org](mailto:ethics@tbpr.org)  
Website: [www.tbpr.org](http://www.tbpr.org)

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: JOHN WILBUR CASTLEMAN, JR., BPR #23551**  
**CONTACT: WILLIAM C. MOODY**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

June 30, 2017

**WAYNE COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On June 30, 2017, John Wilbur Castleman, Jr., of Waynesboro, Tennessee, was suspended for one (1) year and one (1) day, effective immediately. In addition, Mr. Castleman must make restitution to one client in the amount of \$500; obtain an evaluation from the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP) within thirty (30) days and, if TLAP determines a monitoring agreement is appropriate, comply with its terms; and pay the Board's costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

Mr. Castleman was administratively suspended on July 16, 2015, for noncompliance with the mandatory IOLTA reporting requirement and non-payment of the annual registration fee. On July 20, 2015, Mr. Castleman was paid a \$500 refundable retainer by a client. Mr. Castleman did not deposit the retainer to his trust account. Mr. Castleman did not refund the unearned fee to the client. After learning of his suspension, Mr. Castleman met with the client in order to prepare for a hearing. Mr. Castleman did not notify his clients of his suspension. Instead, he wrote a number of his clients a misleading letter in an effort to explain his absence from the office without advising them of his suspension. Mr. Castleman also failed to respond to a request for information from the Board.

Mr. Castleman's ethical misconduct violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4(a), Communication; 1.15(c), Safekeeping Property and Funds; 1.16(d), Declining and Terminating Representation; 5.5(a), Unauthorized Practice of Law; 8.1(b), Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4(a), (c) and (g), Misconduct.

Mr. Castleman must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys, and the procedure for reinstatement.