IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT V

OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: MARK EDWARD CHAPMAN, BPR NO.15397

FILE NO. 35450-5-ES

Respondent, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee (Davidson County)

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Mark Edward Chapman, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on December 14, 2012.

Respondent instructed a paralegal to attend a mediation with a client at which the opposing party was represented by counsel. Opposing counsel and the two mediators believed that the paralegal was an attorney. The paralegal engaged in the unauthorized practice of law by signing the Agreement to Mediate and the Community Mediation Status Agreement Form, which was filed with the court, with his own name; by negotiating with opposing counsel and the mediators without the clients present; and by agreeing to resolve some issues on behalf of the client. Respondent is responsible for this improper conduct of the paralegal.

Further, Respondent failed to provide diligent representation of his client at the mediation when the other party was represented by counsel and issues in the case were resolved.

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By the aforementioned acts, Mark Edward Chapman has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 5.3 (responsibilities regarding non-lawyer assistants) and 1.3 (diligence) and is hereby Publicly Consured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Lela Hollabaugh, Chair

January 17, 2013