

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION ROBERT LAWSON CHEEK, JR., BPR #15407 CONTACT: KRISANN HODGES **BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY** 615-361-7500

January 14, 2013

KNOXVILLE LAWYER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

On December 28, 2012, the Supreme Court of Tennessee issued an Order summarily and temporarily suspending Robert Lawson Cheek, Jr. from the practice of law upon finding that Mr. Cheek has misappropriated funds for his own use, abandoned his law practice and poses a threat of substantial harm to the public. Section 4.3 of Supreme Court Rule 9 provides for the immediate summary suspension of an attorney's license to practice law in cases that an attorney has misappropriated funds and abandonment of law practice thereby posing the risk of a substantial threat to the public.

Effective December 28, 2012, Mr. Cheek is precluded from accepting any new cases and he must cease representing existing clients by January 27, 2013. After January 27, 2013, Mr. Cheek shall not use any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, or law clerk nor maintain a presence where the practice of law is conducted.

Mr. Cheek must notify all clients being represented in pending matters, as well as co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court's Order suspending his law license. Section 18 of Supreme Court Rule 9 requires Mr. Cheek to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

This suspension remains in effect until dissolution or modification by the Supreme Court. Mr. Cheek may for good cause request dissolution or modification of the suspension by petition to the Supreme Court. Cheek 2176-2 rel.doc

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE AT NASHVILLE

IN RE ROBERT LAWSON CHEEK, JR., BPR #015407

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

No. M2012-02741-SC-BPR-BP BOPR No. 2012-2176-2-KH(4.3) DEC 2 8 2012
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ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

This matter is before the Court on a Petition of the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, by and through Disciplinary Counsel, for the temporary suspension of Robert Lawson Cheek, Jr. from the practice of law, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.3. The Petition has been authorized by the Chair of the Board of Professional Responsibility and is supported by the affidavit of Preston Shipp, Disciplinary Counsel.

Based upon the Petition and the supporting Affidavit, the Court finds that Robert Lawson Cheek, Jr. has misappropriated funds for his own use, abandoned his law practice, and poses a threat of substantial harm to the public.

It is therefore, ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the Court that:

- 1. Robert Lawson Cheek, Jr. is hereby temporarily suspended from the practice of law as provided in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.3.
- 2. Robert Lawson Cheek, Jr. shall comply with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 in all respects, and particularly as provided in Section 18.
- 3. Robert Lawson Cheek, Jr. may make application for dissolution or modification of this Order as provided in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9.
- 4. The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this suspension of Robert Lawson Cheek, Jr. to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9.

FOR THE COURT:

WILLIAM C. KOCH, JR., JUSTICE