

## 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 Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: ROBERT LAWSON CHEEK, JR., BPR #15407
CONTACT: ALAN D. JOHNSON
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

May 16, 2014

## KNOX COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED

On May 15, 2014, Robert Lawson Cheek, Jr. was disbarred by the Tennessee Supreme Court, pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 Section 4.1. He was ordered to pay restitution to his former clients as a condition of reinstatement

On May 9, 2013, a Petition for Discipline was filed against Mr. Cheek. The Hearing Panel found that in one case Mr. Cheek settled a personal injury lawsuit without the knowledge and consent of a client, forged his client's name on the settlement check and misappropriated the funds. In another case, Mr. Cheek withheld money from a settlement to pay subrogation claims, paid only a portion of the claims and misappropriated the remainder. Mr. Cheek neglected his cases, failed to communicate with his clients and failed to respond to Disciplinary Counsel.

The Hearing Panel determined that Mr. Cheek violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4, Communication; 1.5, Fees; 1.15, Safekeeping Property; 8.1, Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters; 8.4(a) and (d), Misconduct.

Mr. Cheek must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 Sections 18 and 19 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.

Cheek 2217-2 rel.doc

## PLEASE NOTE

YOU MAY SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE INFORMATIONAL RELEASES, FORMAL ETHICS OPINIONS, NEWSLETTERS AND ANNUAL REPORTS ELECTRONICALLY BY SIGNING IN AT THE BOARD'S WEBSITE