



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

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**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.

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**PLEASE NOTE**

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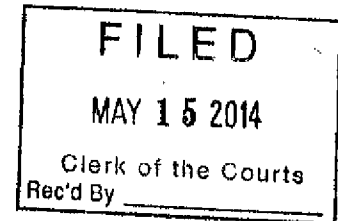
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE  
AT NASHVILLE

**IN RE: ROBERT LAWSON CHEEK, JR., BPR # 15407**  
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee  
(Knox County)

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No. M2012-02741-SC-BAR-BP  
BOPR No. 2013-2217-2-AJ

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**ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT**

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Robert Lawson Cheek, Jr., on May 9, 2013; upon Motion for Default Judgment and that the Allegations Contained in the Petition for Discipline Be Deemed Admitted filed on November 13, 2013; upon entry of an Order Granting Motion for Default on December 19, 2013; upon entry of the Judgment of the Hearing Panel on March 4, 2014; upon service of the Judgment of the Hearing Panel on Mr. Cheek by the Executive Secretary of the Board on March 4, 2014; upon consideration and approval by the Board on March 14, 2014; upon expiration of the appeal period with no appeal taken; and upon the entire record in this cause.<sup>1</sup>

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Judgment as the Court's Order.

By Order entered December 28, 2012, in Case No. M2012-02741-SC-BPR-BP, Mr. Cheek was temporarily suspended from the practice of law by this Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.3. To date, Mr. Cheek has not requested, nor been granted reinstatement.

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

(1) Robert Lawson Cheek, Jr. is disbarred from the practice of law pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.1.

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<sup>1</sup> Because this case was initiated prior to January 1, 2014, it is governed by the pre-2014 version of Tenn. Sup. Ct R. 9.

(2) As a condition precedent to any reinstatement, Robert Lawson Cheek, Jr. is ordered to make restitution to the following individuals or to the Tennessee Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection:

- a) Hawa Conteh - \$16,666.66
- b) Connie Williams - \$31,996.13

(3) Additionally, Mr. Cheek shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§18 (2006) and 30 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.

(4) The temporary suspension Order entered on September 12, 2012, in case number M2012-02741-SC-BPR-BP is hereby dissolved.

(5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.5, this Order shall be effective ten (10) days after the date of entry.

(6) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3, Mr. Cheek shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,811.54 and in addition, shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.

(7) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10.

FOR THE COURT:

  
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CORNELIA A. CLARK, JUSTICE