



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

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

August 13, 2015

KNOX COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED

On August 12, 2015, Robert Lawson Cheek, Jr. was disbarred by the Tennessee Supreme Court. The disbarment took effect immediately. Mr. Cheek must pay the Board of Professional Responsibility's costs and expenses and court costs within ninety days.

On April 30, 2014, Mr. Cheek entered a guilty plea to mail fraud in the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee. On May 21, 2014, the Tennessee Supreme Court summarily suspended Robert Lawson Cheek, Jr. from the practice of law pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 22.3. The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Final Petition for Discipline to determine the extent of Mr. Cheek's discipline. Another Petition for Discipline was filed against Mr. Cheek based upon a complaint received after his summary suspension on May 21, 2014. The two cases were consolidated for Final Hearing.

Mr. Cheek misappropriated settlement funds, withheld money from settlements to pay subrogation claims, paid only a portion of the claims, and in some cases, he forged his clients' signatures on settlement checks. The Hearing Panel determined that Mr. Cheek violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3, Diligence; 1.5, Fees; 1.15, Safekeeping Property; 8.4(a - d), Misconduct.

Should Mr. Cheek petition for reinstatement, he must establish that he has paid restitution to his former clients, complied with the terms and conditions of probation ordered by the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Tennessee, and complied with any recommendations of the Tennessee Lawyer Assistance Program.

In an unrelated case, Mr. Cheek was previously disbarred on May 15, 2014. To date, Mr. Cheek has not been reinstated from his previous disbarment.

Mr. Cheek must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.