



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JOHN JAY CLARK, BPR #24360
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

July 1, 2015

WILLIAMSON COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On June 26, 2015, the Supreme Court of Tennessee suspended the law license of John Jay Clark of Franklin, Tennessee, for four (4) years and ordered Mr. Clark to pay the Board's costs and expenses. The effective date of the Supreme Court's Order is June 26, 2015.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against John Jay Clark on November 19, 2014, and a Supplemental Petition for Discipline on March 23, 2015, based upon four (4) complaints of misconduct. Mr. Clark failed to remit \$24,000.00 in attorney's fees to the law firm at which he was employed; altered a verification from a pleading to make it appear the document was executed on a later date; notarized the verification and filed the pleading with the Juvenile Court without the knowledge or consent of his client. Mr. Clark attempted to visit clients in jail on at least twenty-nine (29) occasions while his license to practice law was suspended for non-compliance with CLE requirements. In mitigation, Mr. Clark fully reimbursed his former law firm for the fees and cooperated with the Board in the disciplinary proceedings. In addition, Mr. Clark experienced a significant personal loss.

Mr. Clark entered a conditional guilty plea, approved by a Hearing Panel for the Board, the Board and the Supreme Court, admitting he violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15(a), (b) and (d) (safekeeping of property and funds); 3.3(a)(1) (candor toward the tribunal); 5.5(a) and (b) (unauthorized practice of law) and 8.4(a) (c) and (d) (misconduct).

Mr. Clark must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 28 (2014) and Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 30.4 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.