



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: CHARLES MICHAEL CLIFFORD, BPR #1544**  
**CONTACT: ALAN D. JOHNSON**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

March 13, 2017

**BLOUNT COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On March 10, 2017, Charles Michael Clifford, of Blount County, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for one (1) year, retroactive to March 9, 2016, the date of his temporary suspension. Mr. Clifford was ordered to pay restitution in the amount of \$1,500.00.

A Petition for Discipline was filed on June 27, 2016, alleging that after accepting a fee, Mr. Clifford failed to communicate adequately with his client, failed to notify his client of a hearing date, failed to appear in court for the hearing, and failed to respond to Disciplinary Counsel.

A Hearing Panel found that Mr. Clifford's actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence); 1.4 (communication); 8.1(b) (disciplinary matters); and, 8.4 (misconduct).

Mr. Clifford must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys. The Court's Order is effective immediately.

Clifford 2600-2 rel.doc

FILED

03/10/2017

Clerk of the  
Appellate Courts

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE  
AT NASHVILLE

**IN RE: CHARLES MICHAEL CLIFFORD, BPR #1544**

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

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**No. M2017-00457-SC-BAR-BP**  
BOPR No. 2016-2600-2-AJ

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**ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT**

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Charles Michael Clifford on June 27, 2016; upon Order Granting Motion for Default entered on September 19, 2016; upon final hearing held before the Hearing Panel on October 18, 2016; upon the Judgment of the Hearing Panel filed on November 15, 2016; upon service of the Judgment of the Hearing Panel upon Mr. Clifford by the Executive Secretary of the Board on November 15, 2016; upon the Board's Application for Assessment of Costs filed November 18, 2016; upon Judgment on Board of Professional Responsibility's Application for Assessment of Costs entered on December 30, 2016; upon service of the Hearing Panel's Judgment on Assessment of Costs upon Mr. Clifford on December 30, 2016; upon consideration and approval by the Board on February 6, 2016; upon expiration of the appeal period with no appeal taken; and upon the entire record in this cause.

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 on November 25, 2014, in Case No. M2014-02192-SC-BAR-BP, Mr. Clifford was suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year, with thirty (30) days to be served as an active suspension. On March 9, 2016, Mr. Clifford was temporarily suspended by this Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.3 (Case No. M2016-00471-SC-BPR-BP). To date, Mr. Clifford has not requested, nor been granted reinstatement from either suspension.

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

(1) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.2, Charles Michael Clifford is suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year.

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.7, and as a condition precedent to any reinstatement, Mr. Clifford shall make restitution to Kyle Gonzales in the amount of \$1,500.00, and shall furnish to the Board of Professional Responsibility proof of restitution. In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection (TLFCP), Mr. Clifford shall reimburse TLFCP.

(3) Mr. Clifford shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28, and Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

(4) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Clifford must meet all CLE requirements; have remitted all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of this suspension until the date of reinstatement; and have remitted all court costs and Board costs in this matter.

(5) Further, the Order of Temporary Suspension entered on March 9, 2016, in Case No. M2016-00471-SC-BPR-BP is hereby dissolved.

(6) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective immediately.

(7) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d), Mr. Clifford shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$359.98, and 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.

(8) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11.

PER CURIAM