



**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**

May 10, 2018

**BLOUNT COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED**

On May 10, 2018, Charles Michael Clifford, of Maryville, Tennessee, was disbarred from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. As a condition of reinstatement, Mr. Clifford must submit to an evaluation by the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program and conform to any monitoring agreements deemed necessary. The disbarment begins on May 10, 2018. Mr. Clifford must pay the Board's costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

In his representation of clients in a personal injury auto accident claim, Mr. Clifford failed to provide opposing counsel with his client's authorization for release of records relevant to injuries sustained as promised and as ordered by the court. In addition, Mr. Clifford and his clients failed to appear at a Motion for Pre-Trial Conference and failed to appear for scheduled depositions. After opposing counsel filed a Motion to Dismiss, Mr. Clifford filed a Notice of Voluntary Nonsuit with a proposed Order before the Motion could be heard. Mr. Clifford's clients were not included on the certificate of service nor updated about the status of the case. The clients were unable to contact Mr. Clifford which ultimately contributed to the clients' statute of limitations for re-filing expiring. Mr. Clifford did not respond to this complaint.

Mr. Clifford's ethical misconduct violates Rules of Professional Conduct 1.2, Scope of Representation; 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communications; 3.2, Expediting Litigation; 8.1(b), Disciplinary Matters; 8.4(d), Conduct Prejudicial to the Administration of Justice; and 8.4(a), Violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct.

Mr. Clifford was previously suspended by the Tennessee Supreme Court on March 10, 2017, and has not been reinstated from this suspension.

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

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE  
AT NASHVILLE

FILED

05/10/2018

Clerk of the  
Appellate Courts

**IN RE: CHARLES MICHAEL CLIFFORD, BPR #001544**

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

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**No. M2018-00847-SC-BAR-BP**  
BOPR No. 2017-2737-2-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 28, 2017; upon a Motion for Default Judgment and that Charges in Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed October 30, 2017; upon an Order for Default Judgment entered November 15, 2017; upon a hearing on December 20, 2017; upon the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment of the Hearing Panel entered January 24, 2018, upon service of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment of the Hearing Panel on Mr. Clifford by the Executive Secretary of the Board on January 24, 2018; upon the Board's Application for Assessment of Costs filed January 25, 2018; upon the Hearing Panel's Findings and Judgment on Assessment of Costs entered February 14, 2018; upon service of the Hearing Panel's Findings and Judgment on Assessment of Costs upon Mr. Clifford on February 14, 2018; upon consideration and approval by the Board on March 9, 2018; 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 recommending disbarment as the Court's Order.

By Order entered 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. By Order entered on March 10, 2017, in Case No. M2017-00457-SC-BAR-BP, Mr. Clifford was suspended for one (1) year. Mr. Clifford has not been reinstated from either suspension.

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

- (1) Charles Michael Clifford is disbarred, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.1.

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.7, and as a condition precedent to any reinstatement, Mr. Clifford shall contact the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP) for evaluation. If TLAP determines that a monitoring agreement is appropriate, Mr. Clifford shall comply with the terms and conditions of the TLAP monitoring agreement. Proof of compliance with TLAP is a condition of reinstatement.

(3) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Clifford must have met all CLE requirements; have remitted all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of this disbarment until the date of reinstatement; and have remitted all court costs and Board costs in this matter as well as payment of any outstanding restitution.

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

(5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective upon entry.

(6) 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 \$506.35 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.

(7) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11 (2014).

PER CURIAM