



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: WILLIAM ALLAN COHN, BPR #005873
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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October 22, 2019

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On October 22, 2019, William Allan Cohn, a Tennessee licensed attorney, was publicly censured by the Supreme Court of Tennessee and ordered to pay the expenses of the Board as well as restitution to his client.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline on June 5, 2018, concerning one (1) complaint of misconduct. Mr. Cohn accepted a non-refundable fee and cost deposit to handle an uncontested divorce. After completing the necessary pleadings, his client's wife refused to sign the documents, and Mr. Cohn was terminated by his client. Mr. Cohn believed that the fee agreement entitled him to additional fees, and he used the cost deposit to cover the additional fees. No costs had been incurred during the course of the representation, and the cost deposit should have remained in Mr. Cohn's IOLTA account until they were refunded to the client.

A Hearing Panel found that Mr. Cohn violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15(c) (safekeeping property and funds) and 8.4(a) (misconduct).

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Cohn 2875-9 rel.doc