



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: WILLIAM ALLAN COHN, BPR #005873
CONTACT: ALAN D. JOHNSON
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

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

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED

10/22/2019

Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN RE: WILLIAM ALLAN COHN, BPR #005873
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

No. M2019-01855-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2018-2875-9-AJ

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed by the Board of Professional Responsibility (“Board”) against William Allan Cohn on June 5, 2018; upon Mr. Cohn’s Motion of Respondent to Dismiss Petition filed on June 26, 2018; upon Mr. Cohn’s Answer to Petition for Discipline filed June 29, 2018; upon the Board’s Response to Motion to Dismiss filed August 30, 2018; upon the Hearing Panel’s Order Denying Respondent’s Motion to Dismiss entered October 2, 2018; upon Mr. Cohn’s Motion and Memorandum in Support of Respondent’s Motion for Summary Judgment filed November 15, 2018; upon the Board’s Response to Motion for Summary Judgment filed on December 21, 2018; upon argument before the Hearing Panel on January 17, 2019 on Respondent’s Motion for Summary Judgment; upon the Hearing Panel’s Order Denying Respondent’s Motion for Summary Judgment entered February 1, 2019; upon the final hearing conducted on April 10, 2019; upon the Judgment of the Hearing Panel entered May 8, 2019; upon service of the Judgment of the Hearing Panel on Mr. Cohn by the Executive Secretary for the Board on May 8, 2019; upon the Board’s Application for Assessment of Costs filed May 9, 2019; upon Mr. Cohn’s objection to the Board’s Application for Assessment of Costs filed on May 13, 2019; upon Agreed Order for Assessment of Costs entered by the Hearing Panel on July 9, 2019; upon service of the Agreed Order for Assessment of Costs on Mr. Cohn by the Executive Secretary for the Board on July 9, 2019; upon consideration and approval by the Board on June 14, 2019; 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 Order as the Court’s Order.

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

(1) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.4, William Allan Cohn, is hereby publicly censured.

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.7, Mr. Cohn shall pay restitution to Frank Houseton in the amount of \$495.00 no later than thirty (30) days from entry of this Order of Enforcement.

(3) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d), Mr. Cohn shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,093.25 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.

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

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

PER CURIAM