



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: DARREN T. COLE, BPR #25816
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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February 5, 2015

FORMER MAURY COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On February 3, 2015, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an order suspending Darren T. Cole of St. George, Utah, for three (3) years. Mr. Cole formerly maintained an office in Maury County, Tennessee. Mr. Cole was further ordered to pay the costs and expenses of the disciplinary proceeding against him.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Cole based upon four (4) complaints of misconduct. In the first matter, Mr. Cole failed to account to his client for work performed and expenses incurred and used his trust account to pay personal expenses. In the second matter, Mr. Cole advised his client he was moving to California, and over the objection of his client, Mr. Cole transferred the representation to another attorney. In the third matter, Mr. Cole engaged in the practice of law as corporate counsel for a California company without registering with the State Bar of California and paying the required fee. In the fourth matter, Mr. Cole made materially false statements in his bar application.

A hearing panel for the Board of Professional Responsibility imposed the sanction of disbarment. Mr. Cole appealed the Hearing Panel's judgment, and the Chancery court modified the judgment of the hearing panel and imposed a suspension of three (3) years. The hearing panel and the trial court determined Mr. Cole violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.5(e)(1) and (e)(2), Fees; 1.15(a) and (b), Safekeeping Property and Funds; 1.16(d), Declining or Terminating Representation; 5.5(a), Unauthorized Practice of Law; 8.1, Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4(a) and (c), Misconduct.

Mr. Cole must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18 (2006) and Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 30.4(d) (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.