



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: DARREN T. COLE, BPR # 25816**  
**CONTACT: KIMBRA SPANN**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

December 10, 2008

**COLUMBIA LAWYER CENSURED**

On December 9, 2008, Darren T. Cole, of Columbia, Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

On September 27, 2007, General Sessions Judge James Y. Ross, Sr. signed a Writ of Possession brought by Peoples Bank as to Mr. Cole's client, Robert Williams. Judge Ross also signed an arrest warrant as to Mr. Williams. On October 3, 2007, the secretary for Judge Ross, Sandra Butler, received an angry call from Mr. Darren Cole. Judge Ross was not in the office when he called. The call was made without the presence of or notice to opposing counsel. According to Ms. Butler, Mr. Cole asked her to tell Judge Ross that he must recuse himself immediately and order the return of the property covered by the writ. Mr. Cole indicated he would sue Judge Ross if Judge Ross did not do this. Judge Ross thereafter called Mr. Cole. Mr. Cole threatened Judge Ross with ethics complaints and lawsuits if he did not "remedy the problem." Meanwhile, Mr. Cole commenced negotiations with the opposing attorney and offered to settle the case. Mr. Cole stated in his settlement offer that "[m]y client will not file the prepared disciplinary complaint against Judge James Ross" if opposing client agreed to his settlement offer. Mr. Cole has therefore violated RPC 3.1, 3.3, 3.4, and 3.5, Rule 8, Rules of the Supreme Court.

For these violations, the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee publicly censured Darren T. Cole. A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Cole 30729-6 rel.doc

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