



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JAMES CARL COPE, BPR #3340
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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May 4, 2018

RUTHERFORD COUNTY ATTORNEY SUSPENDED

On May 4, 2018, the Tennessee Supreme Court suspended James Carl Cope from the practice of law for twenty-five (25) months, effective immediately.

Mr. Cope has been suspended since October 25, 2016, based upon his plea of guilty to the serious crime of insider trading in violation of Title 15, United States Code, Section 78j(b) and Title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 240.10b-5. The Supreme Court ordered the Board of Professional Responsibility to institute a formal proceeding to determine the extent of final discipline to be imposed as a result of Mr. Cope's guilty plea. Following a full evidentiary hearing, a hearing panel determined that the final discipline should be twenty-five (25) months suspension, retroactive to October 25, 2016. The Tennessee Supreme Court exercised its discretion to review the discipline.

Following a review of the record and oral argument, the Court concluded that a retroactive suspension would not be adequate in light of other similar cases. Therefore, the Court concluded that it is appropriate to increase the total length of suspension by making the twenty-five (25) month suspension period prospective from the date of its opinion, May 4, 2018.

Mr. Cope must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 28, regarding the obligations and responsibilities suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.