



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
THELMA J. COPELAND, # 22466
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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September 23, 2008

MEMPHIS LAWYER CENSURED

On September 16, 2008, Thelma J. Copeland, of Memphis, Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Tennessee Supreme Court. In addition to the Public Censure, Ms. Copeland is placed on probation for one (1) year during which time she shall engage a practice monitor. Ms. Copeland is ordered to enroll in a law practice management class within sixty (60) days of the entry of this Order.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Thelma J. Copeland pursuant to Rule 9 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. A Hearing Panel heard the matter and recommended a Public Censure with the above-referenced conditions which was approved by the Supreme Court. Ms. Copeland violated the Rules of Professional Conduct due to her failure to properly maintain a trust account leading to an overdraft. Ms. Copeland failed to demonstrate an understanding of basic trust accounting principles. Her actions violate the following Rule(s) of Professional Conduct: 1.15 Safekeeping Client Property and 8.4(d), Misconduct. Ms. Copeland is further ordered to pay the costs of the disciplinary proceedings.

For these violations, the Supreme Court of Tennessee publicly censures Thelma J. Copeland. A public censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Copeland 1691-9 rel.doc

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