



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: ELIZABETH CATHERINE COX, BPR #28884
CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

February 4, 2015

SEVIER COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED AND PLACED ON PROBATION

On January 30, 2015, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an order suspending Elizabeth Catherine Cox of Sevierville, Tennessee for three (3) years, with one (1) year served as an active suspension, retroactive to February 3, 2014, and the remaining two (2) years served on probation. Ms. Cox must pay the Board's costs and expenses and the court costs. Pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18.5, the effective date of the order of suspension is February 9, 2015. Ms. Cox's probationary period will begin upon her reinstatement to the practice of law pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 30.4(c). During her probation, Ms. Cox must engage the services of a practice monitor, avoid new complaints of misconduct, enter into any monitoring agreement recommended by TLAP and pay restitution to her clients.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Ms. Cox based upon six (6) complaints of misconduct. Ms. Cox revealed damaging client information to the court in her request to withdraw, failed to communicate with her client and missed a scheduled court appearance, stopped communicating with her clients, provided legal advice to a client while suspended from the practice of law and failed to advise clients of her temporary suspension entered February 3, 2014. In mitigation of the above misconduct, Ms. Cox experienced serious personal and family issues.

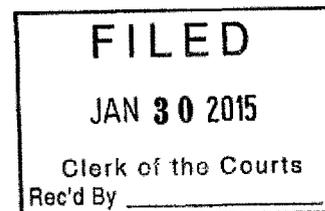
Ms. Cox admitted violating Tennessee Supreme Court Rules of Professional Conduct, 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.6 (confidentiality), 1.16 (terminating representation), 3.2 (expediting litigation), 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law), 8.1 (disciplinary matters) and 8.4 (misconduct).

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

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: ELIZABETH CATHERINE COX, BPR #28884
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Sevier County)

No. M2015-00122-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2014-2365-1-AW



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed on September 8, 2014, by the Board of Professional Responsibility (“Board”); upon the Board’s Motion for Default Judgment and that Charges in the Petition be Deemed Admitted filed on November 12, 2014; upon an Order of Default Judgment entered by the Hearing Panel on December 15, 2014; upon an Answer to Petition for Discipline filed by Ms. Cox on December 29, 2014; upon a Petition to Set Aside Default Judgment filed by Ms. Cox on December 29, 2014; upon Response of Board in Opposition to Petition to Set Aside Default Judgment filed on January 6, 2015; upon an Order Overruling Petition to Set Aside Default Judgment entered on January 8, 2015; upon a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Ms. Cox on January 13, 2015; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on January 14, 2015; upon the consideration and approval of the Board on January 15, 2015; and upon the entire record in this case.

On February 3, 2014, Ms. Cox was temporarily suspended by this Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.3 for failure to respond to the Board concerning a complaint of misconduct (Docket No. M2014-00200-SC-BAR-BP). Ms. Cox has not requested, nor been granted, reinstatement.

From all of which the Court approves the Conditional Guilty Plea executed by Ms. Cox and the Hearing Panel’s Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea approved by the Board of Professional Responsibility and adopts the same 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, § 4.2 (2006) and Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.2 (2014), Elizabeth Catherine Cox is suspended from the practice of law for three (3) years retroactive to February 3, 2014, with one (1) year to be served on active suspension and the remaining two (2) years served on probation subject to the following conditions:

(a) Ms. Cox, at her cost, shall engage the services of a Practice Monitor who shall be selected and approved in accordance with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.9 (e) (2014). The Practice Monitor shall (1) assess Ms. Cox's office management procedures and institute changes as needed; (2) meet with Ms. Cox monthly to review basic office practices to ensure case deadlines are being scheduled and met; (3) meet with Ms. Cox monthly to review the timeliness and adequacy of communication with clients; (4) mentor Ms. Cox as needed in the legal customs learned through experience and the exercise of sound and reasoned judgment; (5) speak with Ms. Cox by telephone at least weekly and report any substantial or material practice problem to the Board; and (6) provide a written report of Ms. Cox's progress to Disciplinary Counsel for the Board on a monthly basis during the first six months of probation and quarterly thereafter.

(b) Ms. Cox shall not, during the period of probation, incur any new complaints of misconduct that relate to conduct occurring during the period of probation and result in a recommendation by the Board that discipline be imposed. In the event that Ms. Cox violates or otherwise fails to meet said condition of probation, Disciplinary Counsel shall be authorized to file a petition to revoke Ms. Cox's probation, and upon a finding that revocation is warranted, Ms. Cox shall serve the previously deferred period of suspension.

(c) Ms. Cox shall pay restitution of \$2,000.00 to Thomas and Gary Blazer and \$600.00 to Stoney and Frances Cockream within one (1) year of the entry of the Order of Enforcement. In the event the ordered restitution is paid by the Tennessee Lawyers Fund for Client Protection (TLFCP), Ms. Cox shall reimburse TLFCP the amount so paid.

(d) Ms. Cox shall contact TLAP for an evaluation and, if recommended, enter into a monitoring agreement.

(2) Ms. Cox shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18 (2006) and § 30.4 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

(3) Upon entry of this Order, the Order of Temporary Suspension entered February 3, 2014, is hereby dissolved.

(4) Prior to reinstatement, Ms. Cox must meet all CLE requirements, pay all outstanding registration fees from the date of suspension through reinstatement, and submit all required IOLTA certifications.

(5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1 (2014), this Order shall be effective upon date of entry.

(6) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d) (2014), Ms. Cox shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$676.88 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.

(7) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11 (2014).

PER CURIAM