

IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT VI  
OF THE  
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY  
OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: Perry Alan Craft, BPR NO. 6056  
Respondent, an attorney licensed  
to practice law in Tennessee  
(Williamson County)

FILE NO. 36113-6-ES(B), 37225-5-ES

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PUBLIC CENSURE

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The above complaints were filed against Mr. Craft, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on September 19, 2014.

Mr. Craft was a named partner in a two-partner law firm. Mr. Craft had authority to write checks from the firm's trust account, but Mr. Craft was not involved in the daily operation of the trust account. Mr. Craft represented a client in a medical malpractice lawsuit who settled her claim against one of the defendants in June 2009. After multiple requests to the law firm, the client received a partial payment of the settlement funds in December 2009. After substantial further litigation by Mr. Craft's firm at trial and on appeal, the client hired a new attorney in July 2013, and the remaining settlement funds were transferred to the new attorney. The client's funds were not maintained in the firm trust account for the duration of the representation.


In the representation of another client, Mr. Craft's law firm received a settlement for the client in 2009. In February 2010, Mr. Craft negotiated a reduction of one of the client's medical bills. In August 2013, Mr. Craft was asked by his law partner to negotiate a further reduction in the same medical bill, which had not been paid. Mr. Craft also spoke with an expert witness who

did not timely receive funds to which he was entitled on the matter. The funds were not paid to the third parties and were not maintained in the firm's trust account.

In another client matter, the firm received a client's settlement on February 15, 2011. A dispute arose with the client about the firm's fee. The dispute was resolved in October 2013. The funds owed to the client were not maintained in the firm's trust account for the duration of the dispute.

Funds in these matters were not maintained in the firm's trust account in accordance with Rule of Professional Conduct 1.15 (safekeeping funds). Mr. Craft did not remove or receive the funds from the trust account. By the aforementioned acts, Mr. Craft has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 5.1 (responsibilities of partners) and is hereby Publicly Censured for this violation.

FOR THE BOARD OF  
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



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J. Russell Parkes, Chair

12/22/14  
Date