

IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT 0
OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: WILLIAM JEFFERSON CRANFORD, III, BPR NO. 035492
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Madison County, AL)

FILE NO.
101333-2025-0-MH-INV

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was opened against William Jefferson Cranford, III, #035492, 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 December 12, 2025.

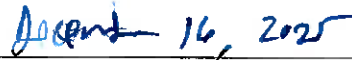
Mr. Cranford represented a client in Federal Court in Alabama. Mr. Cranford drafted, signed, and personally filed two motions on behalf of his client which included fabricated citations that were generated by using Artificial Intelligence (AI). These citations were added by another attorney; however, Mr. Cranford had an obligation to check the citations before signing the motions and filing them with the court. Mr. Cranford failed to act with diligence and caused a delay in his client's case. In addition, Mr. Cranford's conduct was prejudicial to the administration of justice.

By these acts, Mr. Cranford has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 3.2 (expediting litigation), and 8.4 (misconduct), and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "R. Culver Schmid", written over a horizontal line.

R. Culver Schmid, Chair

A handwritten date in blue ink, "August 16, 2025", written over a horizontal line.

Date