

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

IN RE: Robert Brian DeBusk, BPR No. #035106
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Knox County)

FILE No. 100698-2024-2-ES-INV

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Robert Brian DeBusk, 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 this matter at its meeting on March 13, 2026.

Mr. DeBusk worked as an assistant district attorney, and he discovered an email that a defendant had sent from jail to his attorney in a file. This intercepted email became part of the basis for a motion to disqualify the district attorney's office. Mr. DeBusk was subpoenaed to testify at the hearing on the motion to disqualify. While in the hallway prior to testifying, Mr. DeBusk discussed the facts with an attorney not related to this matter. He was then called to testify. When asked about the facts, Mr. DeBusk stated "I don't recall" which was contrary to what he had discussed in the hall. He was further pressed on his recollection, and Mr. DeBusk refused to answer by pleading the "Fifth." Finally, Mr. DeBusk testified substantively about the facts of the matter.

By these acts, Robert Brian DeBusk has violated Rules of Professional 8.4(c) (conduct involving dishonesty) and 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Culver Schmid, Chair

April 28, 2026

Date