



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: HILLARY ELLEN DEWHIRST, BPR# 22760
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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October 25, 2011

KNOX COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On October 25, 2011, Hillary Ellen Dewhirst, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

For years, Ms. Dewhirst has been appointed on cases as a Guardian Ad Litem for the Knox County Juvenile Court. Ms. Dewhirst billed the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) and was paid for these services. Ms. Dewhirst self-reported to the Board that she was unaware prior to 2010 that Tennessee Supreme court Rule 13 did not permit compensation for a non-lawyer assistant. Ms. Dewhirst immediately discontinued the practice of billing the AOC for a non-lawyer assistant once she realized her error. However, she did not make the AOC aware that she had billed for a non-lawyer assistant until they met with her in July 2011. Ms. Dewhirst has agreed to make full restitution to the AOC for this overpayment.

By the aforementioned acts, Hillary Ellen Dewhirst has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(a), (c), and (d) (misconduct).

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Dewhirst 34305-2 rel.doc

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