



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

10 CADILLAC DRIVE, SUITE 220  
BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027  
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500  
(800) 486-5714  
FAX: (615) 367-2480  
E-MAIL: [ethics@tbpr.org](mailto:ethics@tbpr.org)  
Website: [www.tbpr.org](http://www.tbpr.org)

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: JOSEPH JAMES DOHERTY, BPR #14295**  
**CONTACT: WILLIAM C. MOODY**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

September 2, 2015

**HAMBLENT COUNTY ATTORNEY DISBARRED**

On September 2, 2015, Joseph James Doherty was disbarred by the Tennessee Supreme Court and ordered to pay restitution of \$600. The disbarment took effect immediately. Further, Mr. Doherty must pay the Board of Professional Responsibility's costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline and a Supplemental Petition for Discipline based upon four complaints of misconduct. In the first complaint, Mr. Doherty appeared in court while suspended for failing to comply with continuing legal education requirements. In the second complaint, Mr. Doherty failed to respond to a motion to dismiss and failed to advise his client that the case had been dismissed. In the third complaint, Mr. Doherty failed to complete the probating of an estate. In the fourth complaint, Mr. Doherty failed to properly serve the defendant causing the suit to be barred by the statute of limitations. He failed to advise his client of this and instead made misrepresentations to his client leading him to believe that the case was ongoing. Mr. Doherty failed to notify his clients that he had been suspended for failing to comply with continuing legal education requirements. Mr. Doherty abandoned his practice. He also failed to respond to requests for information from the Board.

A Hearing Panel found Mr. Doherty's actions violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct: 1.1, Competence; 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.16, Declining and Terminating Representation; 3.2, Expediting Litigation; 5.5, Unauthorized Practice of Law; 8.1(b), Bar Admissions and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4(a), (c) and (g), Misconduct.

Mr. Doherty was previously suspended for failing to comply with continuing legal education requirements on August 21, 2013 and for failing to respond to requests for information from the Board on December 27, 2013. To date, Mr. Doherty has not been reinstated from his previous suspensions.

Mr. Doherty must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.