



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JAMES AUSTIN DUKES, BPR #026731
CONTACT: JERRY MORGAN
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

October 9, 2020

TENNESSEE LAWYER DISBARRED

Effective October 9, 2020, James Austin Dukes, of Tangipahoa Parrish, Louisiana, was permanently disbarred from the practice of law in Tennessee. Mr. Dukes was found guilty of theft of \$25,000.00 or more; theft of assets of aged; and exploitation of the infirmed in Docket 1-703267 in the State of Louisiana, Parish of Tangipahoa. Mr. Dukes requested to permanently resign from the practice of law in Louisiana in lieu of discipline. As a result, on July 2, 2020, the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana entered an order stating that "James A. Dukes shall be permanently prohibited from practicing law in Louisiana" and "shall be permanently prohibited from seeking readmission to the practice of law in this state."

On August 28, 2020, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered a Notice of Reciprocal Discipline directing Mr. Dukes to inform the Court within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Notice as to why the discipline imposed by the Supreme Court of Louisiana should not be imposed by this Court. Mr. Dukes provided no response to the Supreme Court.

Mr. Dukes must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 28 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.

Dukes 3118-0 rel.doc

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED

10/09/2020

Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN RE: JAMES AUSTIN DUKES, BPR #026731
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Hammond, Louisiana)

No. M2020-01197-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2020-3118-0-JM-25

ORDER OF RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE

This matter is before the Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 25, upon a Notice of Submission filed by the Board of Professional Responsibility (“Board”) consisting of a certified copy of an Order from the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana entered July 2, 2020, whereby James Austin Dukes was permanently prohibited from the practice of law in Louisiana.

On September 4, 2020, this Court entered a Notice of Reciprocal Discipline instructing Mr. Dukes to inform this Court within thirty (30) days of receipt of the Notice why reciprocal discipline should not be imposed in Tennessee pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 25.4; and notifying Mr. Dukes that in the absence of a response demonstrating the grounds set forth in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 25.4, the Court of Tennessee would impose discipline with identical terms and conditions based upon the Order of the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana. This Court has received no response from Mr. Dukes.

The order entered by the Supreme Court of the State of Louisiana on July 2, 2020 stated that “James A. Dukes shall be permanently prohibited from practicing law in Louisiana” and “shall be permanently prohibited from seeking readmission to the practice of law in this state.”

After careful consideration of the record in this matter as well as the filings of the parties, the Court finds, based upon the particular facts of this case, that none of the elements in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 25.4 exist. Accordingly, it is appropriate to enter an Order of Reciprocal Discipline.

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED
BY THE COURT THAT:

- (1) James Austin Dukes is hereby permanently disbarred from the practice of law in Tennessee.

- (2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3, Mr. Dukes shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$100.00 and shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.
- (3) Mr. Dukes shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.
- (4) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective upon entry.
- (5) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11.

PER CURIAM