

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

IN RE: Handel R. Durham, Jr., BPR #010949
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

FILE NO. 100557-2024-9-ES-INV

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Handel R. Durham, Jr., 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 September 12, 2025.

An existing client visited Mr. Durham at his office. Existing client was, at the time, jointly represented by Mr. Durham and another attorney. Mr. Durham and the other attorney's office were within the same office suite. During this visit client advised Mr. Durham of a potential new cause of action. At the conclusion of that conversation Mr. Durham wrongly believed that client hired both himself and co-counsel for the new matter, the same arrangement as the already existing representation. During this new representation, there was no written fee agreement executed, and Mr. Durham, along with co-counsel, improperly attempted to collect a contingency fee from client in the amount of approximately 33.3%.

By the aforementioned acts, Handel R. Durham, Jr., has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.5(c) (fees), 7.1 (communications concerning lawyer's services), and 8.4(a) (misconduct) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Culver Schmid, Chair



Date