



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: KEITH LANE EDMISTON, BPR 018366
CONTACT: EILEEN BURKHALTER SMITH
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

September 26, 2023

TENNESSEE LAWYER CENSURED

On September 26, 2023, Keith Lane Edmiston, a South Carolina attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Edmiston accepted a \$600 fee to defend a client against a lawsuit filed on a sworn account, but Mr. Edmiston failed to appear at the hearing on the matter. Mr. Edmiston then accepted \$1,125 to appeal the matter and filed no appeal and took no further action for the client. A few weeks later, Mr. Edmiston placed his license on disability inactive status.

In another client file, Mr. Edmiston accepted a filing fee of \$335 for a client for whom he filed bankruptcy. Mr. Edmiston did not pay the filing fee to the court, did not place it in trust, and did not return it to the client. Mr. Edmiston's former law partner eventually paid the filing fee to the court.

In a third client file, Mr. Edmiston filed bankruptcy for another client but was not able to complete the representation prior to placing his license on disability inactive status. Mr. Edmiston failed to respond to multiple inquiries from the client. Another attorney completed the client's bankruptcy.

By these acts, Mr. Edmiston is in violation of Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.15 (safekeeping funds), 1.16 (termination of representation), 3.4 (fairness to opposing party), and 8.4 (prejudice to the administration of justice). He is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations with the condition that he make restitution to the first client of \$1,725.00 and restitution to the former law partner of \$335.00 within 90 days.

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

Edmiston 55202c-2, 55537-2, 59063-2 rel.doc