



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: ELBERT EVERETT EDWARDS, BPR #004364
CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

March 17, 2021

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On March 17, 2021, Elbert Everett Edwards, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from Supreme Court of Tennessee conditioned upon his attending the next Board of Professional Responsibility Ethics Workshop.

While in private practice, Mr. Edwards worked as a contract attorney for a debt collection company. Mr. Edwards was retained by the company to collect a debt but never contacted or communicated with the client who was unaware of the representation. The client, not having retained Mr. Edwards or executed a written retainer agreement, objected to the contingency fee charged by Mr. Edwards after successfully collecting the debt. Mr. Edwards executed a conditional guilty plea admitting his conduct violated RPC 1.2 (Scope of Representation), 1.4 (Communication) and 8.4 (Misconduct).

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

Edwards 3053-9 rel.doc

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED

03/17/2021

Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN RE: ELBERT EVERETT EDWARDS, BPR NO. 004364

An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

No. M2021-00287-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2019-3053-9-JM

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Elbert Everett Edwards on November 18, 2019; upon Answer to Petition for Discipline filed by Mr. Edwards on December 26, 2019; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Mr. Edwards on November 6, 2020; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered November 13, 2020; upon service of the Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea on Mr. Edwards by the Executive Secretary of the Board on November 13, 2020; upon consideration and approval by the Board on December 11, 2020; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea as the Court's Order.

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

(1) Elbert Everett Edwards is Publicly Censured. As a condition of the public censure, Mr. Edwards shall attend the next Ethics Workshop scheduled by the Board of Professional Responsibility.

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective upon entry.

(3) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d), Mr. Edwards shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,085.00 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.

(4) 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