

**IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT V
OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE**

**In Re: Ernest Lee Edwards, III, Respondent
An Attorney Licensed To
Practice Law in Tennessee
(Davidson County, BPR #9772)**

**B.P.R. File Nos. 24713-5-ch
25147-5-ch**

PUBLIC CENSURE

Complaints for discipline were filed against respondent, Ernest L. Edwards, III, of Nashville, Tennessee. Pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 8.1, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered the matters at its regular meeting and determined that a Public Censure was appropriate discipline in the above matters. Notice of the proposed censure was mailed to respondent and no objection was filed within the time set by the rule. Therefore, the Public Censure has become final.

In one complaint respondent was hired to file a divorce in 1995. In 1996, respondent sent his client a copy of a divorce decree stating that the decree was entered. In 2000, the client learned that the decree had not been entered and that the case was dismissed in 1997.

The client contacted respondent in 2000 and respondent acknowledged that it was his mistake and that he would rectify the situation. In November, 2001, the client filed the disciplinary complaint. In December, 2001, respondent answered the complaint stating that he would correct the problem at his own expense. The matter was uncorrected in December, 2002.

In another complaint, respondent was the attorney for two estates of decedents opened in 1996 and 1998. Respondent failed to comply with two court orders to close the estates. On three subsequent court reviews the estates were still open. The estates

were only closed after respondent transferred the matters to another attorney.

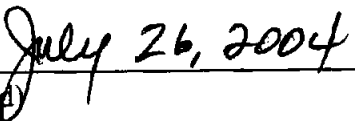
Respondent's conduct is aggravated by his failure to respond to inquiries by disciplinary counsel in violation of DR 1-102(A)(5), [conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice.] He violated DR 6-101(A)(2) and (3), [inadequate preparation and neglect of legal matters.] Ernest L. Edwards, III is **CENSURED** for these violations.

Rule 9, Section 8.1 of the Tennessee Supreme Court Rules permits the respondent twenty (20) days to request a formal hearing in this matter. Absent such a request this file will be closed.

FOR THE BOARD:



Charles E. Carpenter, Chairman
Board of Professional Responsibility


(Date)