



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: JOHN P. FORTUNO, BPR #25390**  
**CONTACT: WILLIAM C. MOODY**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

March 22, 2017

**BRADLEY COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED**

On March 21, 2017, John P. Fortuno of Cleveland, Tennessee, was Publicly Censured by order of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

On August 22, 2016, the Board filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Fortuno, an assistant public defender, alleging that he committed ethical misconduct by exchanging a series of inappropriate text messages with a client he was appointed to represent creating a potential conflict of interest.

Mr. Fortuno entered into a conditional guilty plea admitting that his actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.7(a)(2) (Conflicts of Interest) and 8.4(a) (Misconduct), and should be Publicly Censured for this violation.

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

Fortuno 2621-3 rel.doc