



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: CARRIE WATSON GASAWAY, BPR #18746
CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

October 6, 2015

MONTGOMERY COUNTY ATTORNEY DISBARRED

On October 5, 2015, the Tennessee Supreme Court disbarred Carrie Watson Gasaway from the practice of law and ordered restitution paid to six (6) former clients. On September 9, 2014, the Board of Professional Responsibility filed two separate Petitions for Discipline against Ms. Gasaway, and thereafter, Supplemental Petitions for Discipline were filed in both actions. Ms. Gasaway was suspended from the practice of law on May 15, 2015, after being convicted of extortion in violation of Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 39-14-112, and a separate Petition for Final Discipline was filed on May 22, 2015. In addition to the formal petitions, eight (8) disciplinary complaints containing allegations similar to those set forth in the Petitions for Discipline were under investigation by the Board. Pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 24 (2014), Ms. Gasaway entered a Conditional Guilty Plea admitting to the misconduct alleged in the formal petitions and the disciplinary complaints pending before the Board.

Ms. Gasaway engaged in extortion; theft of client money from trust; charged unreasonable fees; provided incompetent representation; filed meritless claims; failed to perform professional services; failed to provide diligent representation; failed to refund unearned fees; made false statements of fact and failed to disclose material facts to a tribunal; threatened criminal prosecution to obtain an advantage in a civil proceeding; failed to properly supervise her co-counsel and knowingly ratified his misconduct; failed to report the professional misconduct of co-counsel and partner and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, deceit and misrepresentations.

Ms. Gasaway's conduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence); 1.3 (diligence); 1.4 (communication); 1.5 (fees); 1.15 (safekeeping property and funds); 3.1 (meritorious claims and contentions); 3.2 (expediting litigation); 3.3 (candor toward the tribunal); 4.4 (respect for the rights of third persons); 5.1 (responsibilities of partners, managers and supervisory lawyers); 5.3 (responsibilities regarding non-lawyer assistants); 1.16 (terminating representation); 8.1 (bar admission and disciplinary matters); 8.3 (reporting professional misconduct) and 8.4 (misconduct).

Ms. Gasaway must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18 (2006) and Sections 28 and 30 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.

Gasaway 2366-6; 2367-6; 2451-6 rel.doc