



**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).

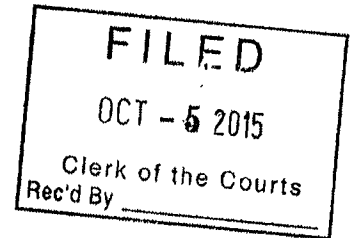
Ms. Gasaway must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18 (2006) and Sections 28 and 30 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.

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

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: CARRIE WATSON GASAWAY, BPR #18746
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Montgomery County)

No. M2015-01926-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2015-2451-6-AW(22.3)
2014-2366-6-AW
2014-2367-6-AW



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline, Docket No. 2014-2366-6-AW, filed by the Board of Professional Responsibility (Board) against Carrie Watson Gasaway on September 9, 2014; upon a Supplemental Petition for Discipline, Docket No. 2014-2366-6-AW, filed February 25, 2015; upon a Petition for Discipline, Docket No. 2014-2367-6-AW, filed September 9, 2014; upon Answer to Petition for Discipline, Docket No. 2014-2367-6-AW, filed by Ms. Gasaway on April 8, 2015; upon Supplemental Petition for Discipline, Docket No. 2014-2367-6-AW, filed on June 2, 2015; upon a Petition for Final Discipline, Docket No. 2015-2451-6-AW(22.3), filed on May 22, 2015; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Carrie Watson Gasaway on September 9, 2015; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on September 10, 2015, by the respective Hearing Panels in Docket No. 2014-2366-6-AW and 2014-2367-AW; upon consideration and approval of the Conditional Guilty Plea by the Board on September 11, 2015; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court accepts the Conditional Guilty Plea approved by the Board, approves the Order of each Hearing Panel and adopts the respective Hearing Panels' Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea as the Court's Order.

On May 15, 2015, Ms. Gasaway's license to practice law was suspended by this Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 22.3 (Case No. M2015-00876-SC-BAR-BP) upon the finding that Ms. Gasaway, a Tennessee attorney, had been convicted of a serious crime, i.e., extortion, in violation of T.C.A. § 39-14-112. To date, Ms. Gasaway has not requested, nor been granted, reinstatement from this suspension.

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

- (1) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 4.1 (2006) and 12.1 (2014), Carrie

Watson Gasaway is disbarred.

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 4.7 (2006) and 12.7 (2014), Ms. Gasaway shall make restitution to the following individuals:

- a. Ramona Davenport Navarro - \$6,750.00;
- b. Dominick Doria - \$12,500.00;
- c. Justin Hewitt - \$7,000.00; Joyce Dutton - \$35,000.00;
- d. Brendan McGettigan - \$45,831.57; and
- e. Cynthia Holt - \$5,858.00.

(3) In the event restitution is paid to any of the above individuals by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection (TLFCP), Ms. Gasaway shall reimburse TLFCP in the amount paid. Restitution is a condition precedent to any application Ms. Gasaway may make for a license to practice law in Tennessee.

(4) Prior to seeking reinstatement to the practice of law, Ms. Gasaway must meet all CLE requirements; have remitted all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of this disbarment until the date of reinstatement; and have remitted all court costs and Board costs in this matter.

(5) In addition, Ms. Gasaway shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 28 and 30.4 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

(6) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1 (2014), this Order shall be effective upon entry.

(7) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d) (2014), Ms. Gasaway shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$2,590.00, within six (6) months from the date of the entry of this Order of Enforcement 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.

(8) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. § 28.11 (2014).

PER CURIAM