



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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June 21, 2006

LAW LICENSE OF COLUMBIA ATTORNEY SUSPENDED

On June 19, 2006, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an order suspending the law license of Michael E. Gilmer for a period of one (1) year to run concurrent with Mr. Gilmer's five (5) year suspension imposed April 21, 2006.

Mr. Gilmer abandoned his law practice without notice to his clients, and failed to finish clients' cases. He failed to adequately communicate with clients, failed to return a client file, and failed to respond to complaints filed with the Board of Professional Responsibility.

Disciplinary Counsel filed a Petition for Discipline and Supplemental Petition for Discipline against the Respondent pursuant to Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. Mr. Gilmer filed no answers to the Petitions nor did he participate in the hearing in the matter. A Hearing Panel of the Board of Professional Responsibility recommended a one (1) year suspension and restitution to a complainant be determined by a Court or Lawyers Fund for Client Protection.

Section 18 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 requires Mr. Gilmer to notify by registered or certified mail all clients being represented in pending matters; all co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court's Order suspending his license. Section 18 also requires Mr. Gilmer to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

This disciplinary matter was held pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 8 and 9. Tennessee suspended lawyers may, after the passage of their suspension, apply for reinstatement of their law licenses. To succeed with a reinstatement, lawyers must carry their burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence that their reinstatement will not be detrimental to the integrity and standing of the bar or the administration of justice or subversive to the public interest.

Gilmer 1546-6 rel.doc

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