



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

10 CADILLAC DRIVE, SUITE 220
BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500
(800) 486-5714
FAX: (615) 367-2480
E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org
Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: WILLIAM CALDWELL HANCOCK, BPR #5312
CONTACT: KRISANN HODGES
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

January 19, 2016

DAVIDSON COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On January 15, 2016, the Supreme Court of Tennessee suspended the law license of William Caldwell Hancock for one year and ordered Mr. Hancock to pay restitution in the total amount of \$22,126.00 as a condition of reinstatement. Mr. Hancock is also ordered to pay costs of the disciplinary proceeding to the Board of Professional Responsibility and to the Court. The suspension will be effective on January 25, 2016. Mr. Hancock will receive credit for fifty-four (54) days of the suspension which he has already served. He will be required to comply with the reinstatement procedure in Section 30.4 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 before he can return to the active practice of law.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Hancock containing allegations of ethical misconduct arising from Mr. Hancock's pursuit of a frivolous lawsuit. A hearing panel determined that Mr. Hancock made allegations in the suit that were not based upon a reasonable inquiry into the law or facts of the matter. The hearing panel further concluded that the purpose of the lawsuit filed by Mr. Hancock was to embarrass and burden a third person. The opposing party expended approximately \$20,000 to defend the suit, which included pursuit of sanctions against Mr. Hancock and his client. Mr. Hancock appealed the decision of the hearing panel to the Davidson County Chancery Court. The Chancery Court affirmed the hearing panel's decision. Mr. Hancock appealed the decision of the Chancery Court to the Tennessee Supreme Court; however, his appeal was dismissed due to his failure to timely pay the litigation tax.

Mr. Hancock has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 3.1, Meritorious Claims and Contentions; 4.4(a), Respect for the Rights of Third Persons; and 8.4(a) and (d), Misconduct.

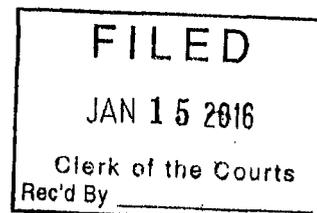
Mr. Hancock must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 (2006) and 30.4 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: WILLIAM CALDWELL HANCOCK, BPR #5312

An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Davidson County)

No. M2016-00106-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2013-2216-5-KH



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed by the Board of Professional Responsibility ("Board") against William Caldwell Hancock on May 9, 2013; upon an Answer to the Petition filed on June 21, 2013; upon a final hearing held on February 25 and 26, 2014 before a hearing panel; upon a Memorandum Opinion and Order on Respondent's Motion to Dismiss entered by the hearing panel on April 14, 2014; upon a Memorandum Opinion and Order entered by the hearing panel entered on April 14, 2014; upon an Amended Judgment entered by the hearing panel on April 15, 2014; upon Mr. Hancock's post-trial motion filed on April 15, 2014; upon consideration by the Board on May 6, 2014; upon an Order denying Mr. Hancock's post-trial motion entered on May 21, 2014; upon the Board's Supplemental Response filed on May 21, 2014; upon an Order entered by the hearing panel on May 22, 2014 again denying Mr. Hancock's post-trial motion; upon Mr. Hancock's Petition for Writ of Certiorari filed on July 21, 2014; upon the final Order entered by the Davidson County Chancery Court on July 2, 2015 affirming the decision of the hearing panel; upon re-entry of the Chancery Court's Order on September 29, 2015; upon Notice of Appeal filed by Mr. Hancock on October 28, 2015; upon Order dismissing the appeal for failure to pay the litigation tax entered on January 5, 2015; and upon the entire record.

From all of which the Court approves the decision of the Hearing Panel and Order of Davidson County Chancery Court and adopts it as the Court's Order.

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

(1) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.2 (2006)¹, William Caldwell Hancock is suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year.

¹ This matter was initiated before the Board of Professional Responsibility prior to January 1, 2014; therefore, the 2006 version of Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 is applicable unless otherwise noted.

(2) Due to the entry of the August 13, 2015 Order of Enforcement in this matter, and subsequent Order vacating it on October 16, 2015, Mr. Hancock has already served fifty-four days of the suspension.

(3) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.7 (2006), Mr. Hancock shall be required to make restitution to the following individuals. Payment of restitution is a condition precedent to reinstatement. In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection ("TLFCP"), Mr. Hancock will be responsible for reimbursement to the TLFCP of the same amount:

- a) Jeffrey Baker - \$20,000.00
- b) Mitzi Blair - \$2,126.00

(4) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.5 (2006), this Order shall be effective ten (10) days after the date of entry.

(5) Additionally, Mr. Hancock shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 18 (2006) and 30.4 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement. Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Hancock must meet all CLE requirements; have remitted all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of this suspension until the date of reinstatement; and have remitted all court costs and Board costs in this matter.

(6) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3 (2006), Mr. Hancock shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$9,130.27 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.

(7) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18 (2006).

PER CURIAM