



**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.