



**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](mailto:ethics@tbpr.org)  
Website: [www.tbpr.org](http://www.tbpr.org)

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: WILLIAM CALDWELL HANCOCK, BPR # 005312**  
**CONTACT: KEVIN BALKWILL**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

January 6, 2011

**DAVIDSON COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED**

On January 6, 2011, William Caldwell Hancock, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

In April, 2007, Mr. Hancock was retained to represent a client in a real estate dispute involving claims of fraud and breach of fiduciary duty. Mr. Hancock agreed to file a civil action to address his client's claims. After some delay, Mr. Hancock filed the lawsuit and proceeded with service of process upon the defendants. Thereafter, Mr. Hancock failed to communicate effectively with his client and failed to move the case forward at a pace suitable to his client. On August 5, 2008, the court advised Mr. Hancock by letter that if the case was not set for trial or resolved by a date certain, it would be dismissed for lack of prosecution. On January 28, 2009, the court dismissed the case without prejudice for lack of prosecution. Mr. Hancock failed to notify his client of the case dismissal. The client subsequently terminated Mr. Hancock's representation. It was only after the termination that the client discovered that the civil action had been dismissed by the court.

By the acts as stated above, William Caldwell Hancock violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), and 1.16 (terminating representation), and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

Hancock 32469-5 rel.doc

**PLEASE NOTE**  
**YOU MAY SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE INFORMATIONAL RELEASES, FORMAL ETHICS**  
**OPINIONS, NEWSLETTERS AND ANNUAL REPORTS ELECTRONICALLY BY SIGNING IN**  
**AT THE BOARD'S WEBSITE**  
**[www.tbpr.org/Subscriptions](http://www.tbpr.org/Subscriptions)**