



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

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**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

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IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT V BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL  
OF THE RESPONSIBILITY  
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY *FW* EXEC. SEC'Y  
OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: William Caldwell Hancock; BPR NO. 5312  
Respondent, an attorney licensed  
to practice law in Tennessee  
(Davidson County)

FILE NO. 32469-5-KB

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PUBLIC CENSURE

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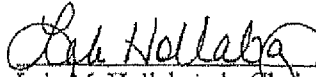
The above complaint was filed against William Caldwell Hancock, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on December 10, 2010.

In April, 2007, Respondent was retained to represent his client in a civil action regarding a real estate property dispute. Respondent agreed to file a civil action seeking redress based upon claims of fraud and breach of fiduciary duty. After some delay, Respondent filed the lawsuit and proceeded with service of process. Thereafter, Respondent 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 sent a letter to Respondent advising that if the case was not set for trial or resolved by a date certain, it would be dismissed under a local scheduling rule without prejudice to re-filing. On January 28, 2009, the court dismissed the case without prejudice for want of prosecution under that local rule. Respondent failed to notify his client regarding the dismissal of the case. The client subsequently terminated Respondent's representation and demanded a final accounting and a refund of all fees paid, simultaneously filing a complaint with

the Board of Professional Responsibility. It was only after the termination of Respondent's representation that the client realized his case had been dismissed.

Under these facts, Respondent has 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.

FOR THE BOARD OF  
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

  
Lela M. Hollabaugh, Chair

1-6-11  
Date