

FILED

2011 JAN -6 PM 5: 53

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

PUBLIC CENSURE

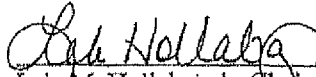
The above complaint was filed against William Caldwell Hancock, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on December 10, 2010.

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