



**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: R.W. HARDISON, BPR #009479**  
**CONTACT: RUSSELL WILLIS**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

May 1, 2019

**WILLIAMSON COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On April 17, 2019, the Supreme Court of Tennessee suspended R. W. Hardison from the practice of law for five (5) years, retroactive to his temporary suspension on August 29, 2017. Mr. Hardison must pay the Board of Professional Responsibility's costs and expenses and court costs within ninety (90) days.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline on November 28, 2017, including three (3) complaints of misconduct. Two (2) of the complaints arose from overdraft notices in Mr. Hardison's trust account. The third complaint resulted from a closing transaction wherein Mr. Hardison assisted a client with the refinancing of a commercial loan but failed to pay off one of the lenders in the original loan transaction. Mr. Hardison's trust account balance for the months following the loan transaction remained below the amount that should have been in the account. Mr. Hardison refunded his client the unpaid loan amount and cites his negligent oversight of the trust account as the cause for him being unaware of the unpaid loan. Mr. Hardison executed a Conditional Guilty Plea acknowledging his misconduct violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15(a), (b) and (d), Safekeeping Property and Funds; 5.3(a) and (c), Responsibilities Regarding Non-Lawyer Assistance; 8.1(b), Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4 (a) and (c), Misconduct.

Mr. Hardison must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys, and may not return to the active practice of law until an order of reinstatement has been entered by the Supreme Court.