



**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: 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.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED

04/17/2019

Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN RE: R.W. HARDISON, BPR #009479
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Williamson County)

No. M2019-00618-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2017-2799-6-KH

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against R.W. Hardison on November 28, 2017; upon Answer to Petition for Discipline filed by Mr. Hardison on February 5, 2018; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Mr. Hardison on March 15, 2019; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on March 15, 2019; upon service of the Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea on Mr. Hardison by the Executive Secretary of the Board on March 15, 2019; upon consideration and approval by the Board on March 20, 2019; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea as the Court's Order.

On August 29, 2017, Mr. Hardison was temporarily suspended by this Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.3 (Case No. M2017-01703-SC-BAR-BP). On August 23, 2018, Mr. Hardison was summarily suspended for failure to pay an annual Professional Privilege Tax (ADM2018-00002). To date, Mr. Hardison has not requested, nor been granted reinstatement from these suspensions.

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

(1) R. W. Hardison is suspended from the practice of law for five (5) years retroactive to the date of his temporary suspension on August 29, 2017, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.2.

(2) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Hardison must have met all CLE requirements; have remitted all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of this suspension until the date of reinstatement; and have remitted all court costs and Board costs in this matter.

(3) Additionally, Mr. Hardison shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

(4) Further, the Order of Temporary Suspension entered on August 29, 2017, in Case No. M2017-01703-SC-BAR-BP is hereby dissolved.

(5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective upon entry.

(6) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d), Mr. Hardison shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$2,470.14 and shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.

(7) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11 (2014).

PER CURIAM