

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

1101 KERMIT DRIVE, SUITE 730
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37217
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500
(800) 486-5714
FAX: (615) 367-2480
E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org
Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: KING BETHEL HARRIS, III, BPR# 23282
CONTACT: KRISANN HODGES
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

January 24, 2011

## MEMPHIS LAWYER DISBARRED

On January 19, 2011, King Bethel Harris, III, of Memphis, Tennessee, was disbarred by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. He was further ordered to pay restitution to Lindsay Gerrard in the amount of \$125,000.00 and Mary Kellogg in the amount of \$85,000.00. He must also pay the Board's costs.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed two (2) Petitions for Discipline against Mr. Harris pursuant to Rule 9 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. The Petitions were consolidated for hearing due to the similarity of the complaints. A Hearing Panel determined that Mr. Harris continued to hold himself out as a licensed attorney while serving an ongoing, prior suspension for disciplinary misconduct. Using a Missouri address and a Tennessee address as an office location, Mr. Harris promised Ms. Gerrard and Ms. Kellogg that he would hold their funds in his attorney trust account in an investment deal he was facilitating. The funds were never transferred to a third party for investment.

His actions violate the following Rule(s) of Professional Conduct: 1.15, Safekeeping Property; 5.5, Unauthorized Practice of Law; 5.7, Responsibilities Regarding Law-Related Services; 7.1 Communications Concerning a Lawyer's Services; 7.5(a)(b) Firm Names and Letterheads; and 8.4(a)(b)(c), Misconduct.

Mr. Harris must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 and 19, should he seek reinstatement of his Tennessee law license, and he may not resume practice until reinstated by further order of this Court.

Harris 1841-9; 1875-9 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