



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: SAMUEL JOSEPH HARRIS, BPR #17392
CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

November 30, 2015

COOKEVILLE ATTORNEY DISBARRED

On November 25, 2015, Samuel Joseph Harris, formerly of Cookeville, Tennessee, was disbarred by the Tennessee Supreme Court and ordered to pay restitution to three former clients. The disbarment is effective immediately and Mr. Harris must pay the Board of Professional Responsibility's costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline and a Supplemental Petition for Discipline based upon five complaints by former clients. The Board's Petitions alleged Mr. Harris accepted fees from his clients but failed to perform the professional services for which he was retained; failed to reasonably communicate with his clients regarding the status of their legal matters; failed to inform his clients his license had been suspended by the Supreme Court and abandoned his clients and his law practice.

A Hearing Panel for the Board of Professional Responsibility found Mr. Harris violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC) 1.1 (competence); 1.3 (diligence); 1.4 (communication); 1.15 (safekeeping of property and funds); 1.16 (declining or terminating representation); 3.2 (expediting litigation); 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law); 8.1 (bar admissions and disciplinary matters) and 8.4(a), (c) and (d) (misconduct).

Mr. Harris' license to practice law was temporarily suspended by the Supreme Court of Tennessee on May 2, 2014, for failure to respond to the Board concerning a complaint of misconduct. By its November 25, 2015 Order of Enforcement, the Temporary Suspension was dissolved.

Mr. Harris must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.