



**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: 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).

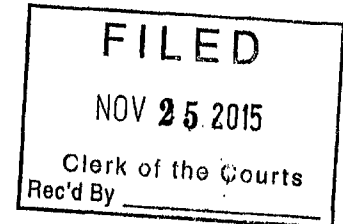
Mr. Harris' license to practice law was temporarily suspended by the Supreme Court of Tennessee on May 2, 2014, for failure to respond to the Board concerning a complaint of misconduct. By its November 25, 2015 Order of Enforcement, the Temporary Suspension was dissolved.

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.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: SAMUEL JOSEPH HARRIS, BPR #17392
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Putnam County)

No. M2015-02209-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2014-2363-4-AW



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed by the Board of Professional Responsibility (the Board) against Samuel Joseph Harris on September 5, 2014¹; upon a Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed on January 2, 2015; upon a Motion for Default Judgment and that Charges in Petition for Discipline Be Deemed Admitted filed on April 9, 2015; upon an Order for Default Judgment entered on May 21, 2015; upon the Board's Application for Assessment of Costs filed on June 30, 2015; upon the Board's Corrected Application for Assessment of Costs filed on July 10, 2015; upon entry of the Judgment and Memorandum Opinion of the Hearing Panel on August 27, 2015; upon service of the Judgment and Memorandum Opinion of the Hearing Panel by the Executive Secretary for the Board on August 27, 2015; upon consideration and approval by the Board on September 11, 2015; upon expiration of the appeal period with no appeal taken; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the Judgment and Memorandum Opinion of the Hearing Panel and adopts the same as the Court's Order.

On May 2, 2014, Mr. Harris was temporarily suspended by this Court for failure to respond to the Board concerning a complaint of misconduct in Docket No. M2014-00842-SC-BAR-BP. To date, Mr. Harris has not been reinstated from the temporary suspension.

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

- (1) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 4.1 (2006) and 12.1 (2014), Samuel Joseph Harris is disbarred.
- (2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.7 (2014), and as a condition precedent

¹ The Petition and Supplemental Petition contain complaints initiated before the Board prior and subsequent to January 1, 2014, and are governed respectively by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 (2006) and Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 (2014).

to any reinstatement, Mr. Harris shall make restitution to the following individuals and shall furnish to the Board of Professional Responsibility proof of restitution. In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection (TLFCP), Mr. Harris shall reimburse TLFCP in the same amount:

- a. Mr. and Mrs. John Graham in the amount of \$2,500.00;
- b. Russell Warren in the amount of \$3,000.00; and
- c. Martina Gabriel in the amount of \$600.00.

(3) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Harris shall meet all CLE requirements; remit all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of this disbarment until the date of reinstatement; and remit all court costs and Board costs in this matter.

(4) Mr. Harris shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 28 and 30.4 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

(5) The Order of Temporary Suspension entered on May 2, 2014, in Case No. M2014-00842-SC-BAR-BP is hereby dissolved.

(6) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1 (2014), this Order shall be effective upon entry.

(7) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d) (2014), Mr. Harris shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,200.02 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.

(8) 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