



**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: MICHAEL LEON HARRIS, BPR #030634
CONTACT: EILEEN BURKHALTER SMITH
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

January 22, 2020

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On January 22, 2020, Michael Leon Harris, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Harris represented a homeowner in a detainer action by the mortgagor. After the detainer was granted, Mr. Harris filed a petition for Chapter 13 bankruptcy for the client to stop the eviction. Mr. Harris, however, made no further filings on the case, and it was dismissed by the court 17 days later. The mortgagor then received another writ of possession, and Mr. Harris filed a second Chapter 13 bankruptcy for the client. This second bankruptcy petition was dismissed by the court when Mr. Harris made no further filings. Mr. Harris filed two additional bankruptcy petitions, each of which was dismissed after no subsequent filings. The mortgagor eventually received relief from the court to execute on its writ of possession.

Mr. Harris' four bankruptcy filings for his client were not meritorious and were, instead, filed to improperly stop execution on valid writs of execution. The filings were in violation of Rule 3.1 (meritorious claims and contentions), and 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice). Mr. Harris typed his client's name as a "signature" for each petition, without having the actual signature of his client for each petition, which is a misrepresentation to the court in violation of Rule 3.3 (candor to the tribunal). Mr. Harris has failed to respond to requests for information on this matter in violation of Rule 8.1 (disciplinary matters).

By these acts, Mr. Harris has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 3.1 (meritorious claims and contentions), 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice), 3.3 (candor to the tribunal) and 8.1 (disciplinary matters) and is hereby Publicly Censured for this conduct. A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT IX
OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: MICHAEL LEON HARRIS, # 030634
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

FILE NO. 60064-9-ES

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Michael Leon Harris, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on December 13, 2019.

Mr. Harris represented a homeowner in a detainer action by the mortgagor. After the detainer was granted, Mr. Harris advised the client she could file for bankruptcy to stop her eviction. The client agreed, and Mr. Harris filed a petition for Chapter 13 bankruptcy for the client. Mr. Harris, however, made no further filings on the case, and it was dismissed by the court 17 days later. The mortgagor then received another writ of possession, and Mr. Harris filed a second Chapter 13 bankruptcy for the client. This second bankruptcy petition was dismissed by the court a few weeks later, when Mr. Harris made no further filings. Mr. Harris filed two additional bankruptcy petitions, each of which was dismissed after no subsequent filings. The mortgagor eventually received relief from the court to execute on its writ of possession.

Mr. Harris' four bankruptcy filings for his client were not meritorious and were, instead, filed to improperly stop execution on valid writs of execution. The filings were in violation of

Rule 3.1 (meritorious claims and contentions), and 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice). Mr. Harris typed his client's name as a "signature" for each petition, without having the actual signature of his client for each petition, which is a misrepresentation to the court in violation of Rule 3.3 (candor to the tribunal). Mr. Harris has failed to respond to requests for information on this matter in violation of Rule 8.1 (disciplinary matters).

By the aforementioned acts, Mr. Harris has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 3.1 (meritorious claims and contentions), 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice), 3.3 (candor to the tribunal) and 8.1 (disciplinary matters) and is hereby Publicly Censured for this conduct.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Floyd Flippin, Chair

Date 1/22/20