# BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
## SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**
**RE: WILLIAM ANTHONY HELM, BPR #007588**
**CONTACT:  JESSE D. JOSEPH**
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**
**615-361-7500**

August 25, 2005

## MEMPHIS LAWYER PUBLICLY CENSURED

William Anthony Helm, of Memphis, was publicly censured by the Board of Professional Responsibility on August 24, 2005.  The censure was issued by the Board pursuant to Rule 9, Section 8 of the Rules of the Tennessee Supreme Court.  Helm did not request a hearing on the matter.

In two complaints filed against Helm, the Board found that he seriously neglected two clients' legal matters, that he had been persistently dilatory in meeting his commitments to clients and to the Board, and that he failed to promptly refund a fee to one client which he acknowledged was unearned.

The Board also found that Helm had represented two clients with conflicting interests in an irreconcilable differences divorce action for several months where he knew, or should have known that disagreements had arisen between these clients over the provisions of the marital dissolution agreement, and that he negligently allowed his former secretary to alter the content of pleadings filed with the Circuit Court bearing his signature.

In deciding to sanction Helm by public censure, the Board found somewhat mitigating his discharge of the secretary, the parties' entry into an amended marital dissolution agreement in the divorce matter resolving the conflict and the Circuit Court's grant of permission for him to file an amended divorce complaint to eliminate the effect of the prior alternation of documents.

**Helm 27906-27924-9 rel.doc**

## PLEASE NOTE

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