



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: LAURAL ANN AXSON HEMENWAY, BPR #19524
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

October 19, 2015

FORMER RUTHERFORD COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On October 15, 2015, Laural Ann Axson Hemenway, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Ms. Hemenway was the Assistant District Attorney in a contentious criminal trial. After the Judge granted a mistrial on an evidentiary issue, Ms. Hemenway stated in open court that “I feel this is a hostile environment for a female”; “this entire court proceeding has been a violation of my Constitutional Rights as a woman to be treated fairly”; “my rights have not been protected. And it’s a hostile working environment when you are forced into that situation, and you don’t have recourse”; and “I have spoken with other people who have observed the Court today who have said . . . that there is a lot of discriminatory things that have been done and said in the courtroom.”

By these acts, Ms. Hemenway violated Rules of Professional Conduct 3.5(e) (conduct intended to disrupt a tribunal), 8.2(a) (integrity of judicial officials), and 8.4 (d) (prejudice to the administration of justice).

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney’s ability to practice law.

Hemenway 37520-4 rel.doc