



**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: LAURAL ANN AXSON HEMENWAY, BPR #19524
CONTACT: EILEEN BURKHALTER SMITH
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

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

IN RE: LAURAL ANN AXSON HEMENWAY

FILE NO. 37520-4-ES

BPR No. 19524

Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Davidson County)

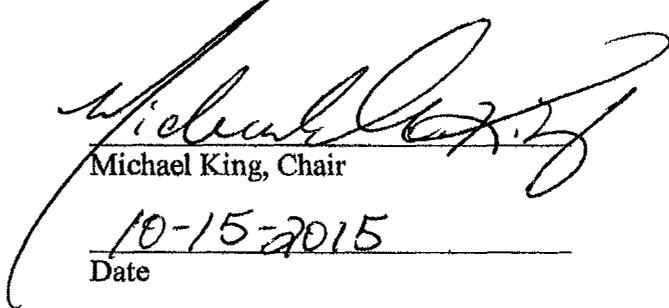
PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Laural Ann Axson Hemenway, 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 September 11, 2015.

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 the aforementioned 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) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael King". The signature is written over a horizontal line.

Michael King, Chair

10-15-2015
Date