



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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April 29, 2009

ANDERSON COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On April 24, 2009, Patricia Hess, who practices law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

The Respondent presided as juvenile court judge in a child custody matter. Respondent was later defeated in a judicial election during the pendency of the custody matter. Respondent then undertook representation of one of the parties in the matter in violation of RPC 1.12(a), which prohibits a lawyer from representing anyone in connection with a matter in which the lawyer participated personally and substantially as a judge, unless all parties to the proceeding consent in writing after consultation. Respondent was later ordered by the Court to report her actions to the Board of Professional Responsibility and obtain an informal opinion regarding a possible conflict of interest in Respondent's representation of her client. Respondent failed to abide by the Court's written order in violation of RPC 8.4(g), and Respondent was removed as counsel of record in the case. Respondent has fully reimbursed her client for all fees received from her client.

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

Hess 30752-2-DB

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