



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JAMES RALPH HICKMAN BPR #020125
CONTACT: R. DAVISON DOUGLAS
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

December 23, 2025

SEVIER COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On December 23, 2025, the Tennessee Supreme Court issued James Ralph Hickman, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, a Public Censure conditioned upon payment of fees to the Board of Professional Responsibility.

Mr. Hickman engaged in the unauthorized practice of law on July 10, 2023, and July 13, 2023, when he appeared in court on behalf of two clients and counseled the clients regarding the entry of guilty pleas while his license to practice law was suspended. The Hearing Panel found his conduct violated Tennessee Rule of Professional Conduct 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law).

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

Hickman 3440-1 rel.doc