



# 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