



**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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June 11, 2012

MAURY COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On June 5, 2012, Rhonda D. Hooks, formerly of Maury County, Tennessee, received a Public Censure by the Supreme Court of Tennessee and was ordered to attend additional hours of ethics legal education.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Ms. Hooks pursuant to Rule 9, Section 8.2 of the Rules of the Supreme Court alleging that Ms. Hooks violated Rules of Professional Conduct. A Hearing Panel found Ms. Hooks filed a motion in a client's criminal case without notifying and receiving permission from the client's current counsel; assisted a client in the unauthorized practice of law and failed to ascertain the status and complexity of a client's case prior to representing that client.

Ms. Hooks' actions violate Rules of Professional Conduct 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law) and 8.4 (a), (c) and (d) (misconduct). For these violations, the Supreme Court of Tennessee publicly censures Rhonda Hooks and requires her to attend ten additional hours of ethics continuing legal education in each of the years 2012, 2013 and 2014.

Hooks 2042-6 rel.doc

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