



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RHONDA D. HOOKS, BPR # 21886
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

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

PLEASE NOTE

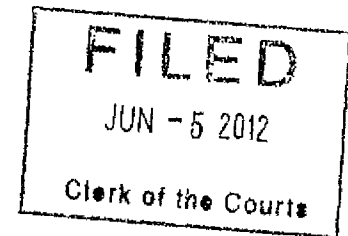
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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE **RHONDA D. HOOKS**, BPR # 021886
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Maury County)

No. M2012-01096-SC-BPR-BP
BOPR No. 2011-2042-6-SG



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed on November 17, 2010, by the Board of Professional Responsibility ("Board") against Rhonda D. Hooks in Docket No. 2011-2042-6-SG; upon Ms. Hooks' Answer filed December 7, 2010; upon Ms. Hooks' Motion for Supplemental Petition to be severed from and heard separately from the original Petition pursuant to Tenn. R. Civ. P. 42 filed December 16, 2010; upon the Board's Response in Opposition to Respondent's Motion for Supplemental Petition for Discipline to be Severed, filed January 14, 2011; upon the Hearing Panel's Order severing the Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed April 6, 2011; upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Recommendation of the Hearing Panel entered March 12, 2012; upon service of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Recommendation of the Hearing Panel by the Board on Ms. Hooks' counsel on March 12, 2012; upon the Board's consideration and approval of the Hearing Panel's Recommendation on March 29, 2012; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law by the Hearing Panel and adopts the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as the Court's Order.

It is, therefore, ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the Court that:

1. Rhonda D. Hooks is publicly censured and required to attend ten additional hours of ethics continuing legal education each in the years of 2012, 2013, and 2014.
2. This Order shall become effective ten (10) days after filing.

3. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3, Ms. Hooks shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$4,193.86 and, in addition, shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.
4. The Board shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10.

FOR THE COURT:



WILLIAM C. KOCH, JR., JUSTICE