



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
JAMES M. HOOTS, BPR #14118
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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March 2, 2010

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

On February 17, 2010, the Supreme Court of Tennessee issued an Order summarily and temporarily suspending James M. Hoots from the practice of law upon finding that Mr. Hoots had misappropriated funds to his own use. Section 4.3 of Supreme Court Rule 9 provides for the immediate summary suspension of an attorney's license to practice law in cases of an attorney's misappropriation of funds.

Effective February 17, 2010, Mr. Hoots is precluded from accepting any new cases and he must cease representing existing clients by March 19, 2010. After March 19, 2010, Mr. Hoots shall not use any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, or law clerk nor maintain a presence where the practice of law is conducted.

Mr. Hoots must notify all clients being represented in pending matters, as well as co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court's Order suspending his law license. Section 18 of Supreme Court Rule 9 requires Mr. Hoots to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

This suspension remains in effect until dissolution or modification by the Supreme Court. Mr. Hoots may for good cause request dissolution or modification of the suspension by petition to the Supreme Court.

Hoots 1897-9 rel.doc

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: JAMES M. HOOTS, BPR NO. 014118
An Attorney Licensed To Practice Law In Tennessee
(Shelby County)

FILED
FEB 17 2010
Clerk of the Courts

No. M 2010-00354-SC-BPR-BP
BOPR No. 2010-18979-SB(4.3)

ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition of the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, by and through Disciplinary Counsel, for the temporary suspension of James M. Hoots, from the practice of law, pursuant to Section 4.3 of Supreme Court Rule 9. The Petition has been authorized by the Chair of the Board of Professional Responsibility and is supported by the Affidavit of Lana Faye Scott. Also before the Court is the Response of James M. Hoots, Respondent, in which he consents to the temporary suspension.

Based upon the Petition and the supporting Affidavit and the Response to the Petition, the Court finds that Respondent has misappropriated funds to his own use and poses a threat of substantial harm to the public.

It is, therefore, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED** and **DECREED** by the Court:

1. That James M. Hoots is hereby temporarily suspended from the practice of law as provided in Section 4.3 of Supreme Court Rule 9.
2. That James M. Hoots comply with Supreme Court Rule 9 in all respects, and particularly as provided in Section 18.
3. That James M. Hoots may make application for dissolution or modification of this Order as provided in Supreme Court Rule 9.
4. That the Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this suspension of James M. Hoots to be published as required by Supreme Court Rule 9.

Nicholas W. [Signature], Clerk, hereby certify that
this is a true and exact copy of the original

FOR THE COURT:

Filed in the cause,
This 17 day of Feb., 20 10
By: [Signature] CLERK OF COURTS D.C.

Cornelia A. Clark
CORNELIA A. CLARK
JUSTICE