



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
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July 29, 2008

NASHVILLE ATTORNEY DENIED REINSTATEMENT

On July 10, 2008, the Supreme Court entered a Judgment against Dennis J. Hughes denying reinstatement of his law license. The Court found that Mr. Hughes had failed to carry his burden in his reinstatement proceeding to show by clear and convincing evidence that his resumption of the practice of law would not be detrimental to the integrity and standing of the bar or the administration of justice, or subversive to the public interest.

In 1997 Mr. Hughes was convicted of two felonies in connection with his bribery of an eyewitness in a case in which he was defense counsel in a first degree murder trial in Davidson County. The conviction was affirmed on appeal and Mr. Hughes served two years in jail. Immediately following the conviction, Mr. Hughes was summarily suspended from the practice of law pursuant to Section 14 of Supreme Court Rule 9 and he later consented to disbarment pursuant to Section 15.

In October 2004, Mr. Hughes filed a petition for reinstatement under Section 19, which places the burden of proof on the suspended or disbarred attorney to establish three criteria for reinstatement by clear and convincing evidence. In its written Opinion accompanying the Judgment, a majority of the Court concluded that Mr. Hughes had failed to carry his burden of proof on the final criterion and that his rehabilitation efforts did not outweigh the seriousness of his crimes. Justice Janice Holder dissented concluding that the majority of the Court had misapplied the July 2006 amendment to the standard of review on appeal provision of Section 8.1 and the Court's recent decision in *Love v. Board of Professional Responsibility*, No. M2007-00790-SC-R3-CV, 2008 WL 2002339 (May 12, 2008) interpreting the amendment.

Pursuant to Section 19.8 of Rule 9, Mr. Hughes cannot seek reinstatement again for three (3) years following the date of the Judgment of July 10, 2008.

Hughes R-153-5 rel.doc

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