

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION RE: LORING EDWIN JUSTICE, BPR #019446 <u>CONTACT: JERRY MORGAN</u> BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY <u>615-361-7500</u>

July 2, 2019

TENNESSEE LAWYER DISBARRED

On July 2, 2019, Loring Edwin Justice, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, was disbarred from the practice of law by the Supreme Court of Tennessee. The disbarment is effective ten (10) days from the date of the order.

Mr. Justice represented a plaintiff in a personal injury lawsuit. The federal district court imposed a discovery sanction against the defendant and ordered it to pay the attorney's fees and costs plaintiff incurred in locating and deposing a witness the defendant failed to disclose. When Mr. Justice submitted an itemization of the fees and costs, he falsely claimed a paralegal's work as his own. Mr. Justice further submitted a written declaration that falsely claimed he had kept contemporaneous time records on the case and attested to the truth and accuracy of the itemization. In addition, Mr. Justice requested "grossly exaggerated and unreasonable" attorney's fees of more than \$103,000.00 for work beyond the scope of the federal district court's discovery sanction order. Finally, Mr. Justice testified falsely in a hearing before the federal district court by reaffirming the truth and accuracy of the itemization and the written declaration.

The Supreme Court found Mr. Justice's unethical conduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.5(a) (Fees); 3.3(a) (Candor Toward the Tribunal); 3.4(b) (Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel); and 8.4(a) and (c) (Misconduct).

Mr. Justice must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 (2013), Section 18, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and pay court costs pursuant to Section 24.3 (2013).

Justice 2254-2 rel2.doc