



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: LORING EDWIN JUSTICE, BPR #019446
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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June 13, 2024

KNOX COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

Effective June 12, 2024, the Supreme Court of Tennessee unanimously held in a majority opinion, with one Justice writing a concurring opinion, that Loring Edwin Justice committed professional misconduct for which the sanction is a suspension of his law license for three (3) years pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.2.

After a hearing upon the disciplinary petition, a Hearing Panel determined by a preponderance of the evidence that Mr. Justice made statements about a judge in court pleadings that were either false or that no reasonable attorney would believe were true, that the statements were made to disrupt a judicial proceeding, that they caused unnecessary delay and needlessly increased litigation costs, and that they undermined public confidence in the administration of justice. The Hearing Panel concluded the above conduct by Mr. Justice was in violation of RPC 3.5(e) (disrupting a tribunal), RPC 8.2(a)(1) (judicial and legal officials), and RPC 8.4(a) and 8.4(d) (misconduct). On appeal, the trial court affirmed the findings of the Hearing Panel as to the ethical violations but reversed the Hearing Panel's imposition of a three (3) year suspension and increased the sanction to disbarment.

The trial court's judgment was affirmed in part and reversed in part by the Supreme Court, resulting in affirmation of the findings by the Hearing Panel and the trial court regarding each ethical violation found, and the reversal of the trial court's order of disbarment and reinstatement of the Hearing Panel's three (3) year suspension. The Court ordered Mr. Justice to obtain an additional six (6) hours of CLE pertaining to ethics instruction and pay the costs of his disciplinary proceeding as conditions precedent to reinstatement of his license.