



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: VANESSA G. KEELER, BPR# 20481
CONTACT: RANDALL J. SPIVEY
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

September 29, 2010

MEMPHIS LAWYER SUSPENDED

On September 24, 2010, Vanessa G. Keeler of Memphis, Tennessee, was suspended by the Tennessee Supreme Court for a period of one (1) year pursuant to Rule 9, Section 4.2, of the Rules of the Supreme Court. Ms. Keeler's actual suspension will be three (3) months with the remainder of the suspension period served on probation. Ms. Keeler was also ordered to pay restitution to four clients.

Ms. Keeler violated disciplinary rules in ten (10) separate client matters that demonstrated a pattern of delay and lack of diligence. Ms. Keeler's actions violated former Disciplinary Rules 1-102, 2-110, 6-101 and 7-101, and Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 8, Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (Competence), 1.3 (Diligence), 1.4 (Communication), 1.15 (Safekeeping Property), 1.16 (Declining and Terminating Representation), 3.1 (Meritorious Claims and Contentions), 3.3 (Candor Toward the Tribunal), 3.4 (Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel), 4.1 (Truthfulness and Candor in Statements to Others), 5.4 (Professional Independence of a Lawyer), 8.1 (Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters) and 8.4 (Misconduct).

Ms. Keeler was further ordered to pay the expenses and costs of the disciplinary proceedings against her, pursuant to Rule 9, Section 24.3, of the Rules of the Supreme Court, and fully comply in all respects with the requirements and obligations of suspended attorneys as set forth in Rule 9, Section 18.1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

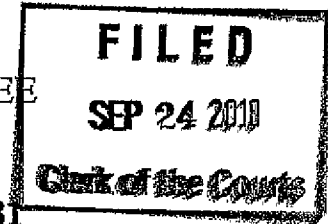
Keeler 1590-9; 1952-9 rel.doc

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE



IN RE: VANESSA G. KEELER, BPR # 20481

An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in
Tennessee (Shelby County)

No. ~~10-02004-SC-BPO-BP~~
BOPR Nos. 2006-1590-9-JJ & 2010-1952-9-RS

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed by Disciplinary Counsel against Respondent, Vanessa Gale Keeler, on March 31, 2006, bearing docket number 2006-1590-9-JJ; upon an Answer to the Petition for Discipline filed on May 12, 2006; upon a Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed on August 22, 2007 bearing docket number 2006-1590-9-JJ; upon an Answer to the Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed on November 15, 2007; upon a Petition for Discipline filed on July 28, 2010 bearing docket number 2010-1952-9-RS; upon an Order consolidating docket numbers 2006-1590-9-JJ and 2010-1952-9-RS filed on September 9, 2010; upon the entering of a Conditional Guilty Plea by the Respondent on August 26, 2010; upon the Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea by a Hearing Panel on September 9, 2010; upon approval by the Board of Professional Responsibility on September 10, 2010; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the recommendation of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Judgment and Recommendation of the Hearing Panel as the Court's Order.

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

1. The Respondent, Vanessa Gale Keeler, shall be and hereby is suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 4.2. However, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 8.5, the Respondent's actual suspension shall be for a period of three (3) months. The imposition of the remainder of the suspension is suspended, and the Respondent is thereafter placed on probation for the remainder of the one (1) year subject to the following conditions.

2. During the period of probation, the Respondent shall attend three (3) hours of Continuing Legal Education on the topic of legal ethics. These hours shall be over and above the hours normally required by the Commission on Continuing Legal Education.

On September 7, 2010, the Respondent was suspended for CLE non-compliance, therefore, Respondent must complete all CLE requirements prior to reinstatement.

3. The Respondent shall employ, at her own expense, a law practice monitor. Within fifteen (15) days of the entry of this Order, Respondent shall submit the name of the proposed candidate for practice monitor to disciplinary counsel, who will then approve the selection or request another name. In the first month of the probation period, the law practice monitor will meet with the Respondent to discuss good office management practices and make suggestions on improving the Respondent's management of her law practice.

4. The law practice monitor shall also meet monthly with the Respondent to review and monitor the Respondent's open files to insure (1) that the Respondent is meeting all deadlines in each case and (2) that the Respondent is communicating candidly and timely with each of her clients. The law practice monitor shall provide monthly reports to Disciplinary Counsel detailing the Respondent's compliance with these conditions.

5. Before the end of the nine (9) month probation period, the Respondent shall provide restitution to the following complainants in the following amounts:

Hazel Robinson	\$750
Elizabeth Britt	\$6500
Wallace Francois	\$1200
Robert Perry	\$500

The Respondent shall also provide proof to disciplinary counsel of the payment of the above-referenced restitution.

6. During the time of suspension and probation, the Respondent shall incur no new complaints of misconduct (1) that relate to conduct occurring during the period of suspension and probation and (2) that result in the recommendation by disciplinary counsel that discipline be imposed.

7. Failure to meet any of the above listed conditions or upon report to Disciplinary Counsel from the law practice monitor that the Respondent has failed to meet all deadlines in her cases or communicate candidly and timely with each of her clients will result in the revocation of the Respondent's probation. Upon revocation of her probation, the Respondent will be required to serve the entirety of the one (1) year suspension beginning ten (10) days from the date of revocation.

8. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 24.3, the Respondent shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,401.90, and in addition, shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days from the entry of this order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.

9. The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18.10.

FOR THE COURT:

Cornelia A. Clark
CORNELIA A. CLARK
CHIEF JUSTICE

Michael W. Catalano, Clerk, hereby certify that this is a true and exact copy of the original

filed in the cause.

This 24 day of Sept, 20 10

CLERK OF COURT

By: Michael W. Catalano