



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**VANESSA GALE KEELER, BPR #020481**  
**CONTACT: KRISANN HODGES**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

August 2, 2012

**MEMPHIS LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On August 1, 2012, Vanessa Gale Keeler, of Memphis, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for three (3) years. She was further ordered to pay restitution to nine (9) clients, to participate in an evaluation by the Tennessee Lawyer's Assistance Program or an equivalent program in another state, and to pay costs to the Board of Professional Responsibility.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline on August 22, 2011 containing six complaints of misconduct. A Supplemental Petition for Discipline was filed on April 17, 2012 containing four complaints of misconduct. Ms. Keeler entered into a Conditional Guilty Plea. Clients were unable to contact her either at her office or by telephone. Ms. Keeler failed to provide her clients with copies of pleadings she prepared on their behalf. Her actions evidenced a pattern of failing to communicate in each of these cases. Further, Ms. Keeler failed to exercise appropriate diligence. She failed to handle a personal injury case, several domestic relations cases, and an insurance claim in a timely manner.

Her actions violate the following Rules of Professional Conduct: 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.5(a), Fees; 1.16(d), Declining and Terminating Representation; 3.2, Expediting Litigation; and 8.4(a) and (c), Misconduct.

Ms. Keeler must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 and 19, should she seek reinstatement of her Tennessee law license, and she may not resume practice until reinstated by further order of the Court.

Keeler 2066-9 rel.doc

**PLEASE NOTE**

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