



**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

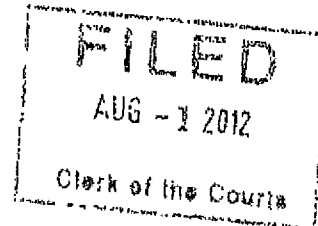
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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE VANESSA GALE KEELER, BPR #020481
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

No. M2012-01490-SC-BPR-BP
BOPR No. 2011-2066-9-RS



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed August 22, 2011 by the Board of Professional Responsibility ("Board") against Vanessa Gale Keeler; upon an Answer filed by Ms. Keeler on December 14, 2011; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea by Ms. Keeler on February 15, 2012; upon the Hearing Panel's rejection of the Conditional Guilty Plea on March 8, 2012; upon a Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed on April 17, 2012; upon entry of a second Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Ms. Keeler on May 7, 2012; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on May 24, 2012; upon consideration and approval by the Board on June 22, 2012; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the recommendation of the Hearing Panel and accepts the Conditional Guilty Plea.

On June 26, 2012, Ms. Keeler was summarily suspended for non-compliance with mandatory IOLTA reporting requirements and non-payment of the annual registration fee.

It is therefore, ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the Court that:

1. Vanessa Gale Keeler shall be and is hereby suspended from the practice of law for three (3) years pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.2.
2. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §4.7, Ms. Keeler shall pay restitution to the following individuals. Payment of restitution shall be a condition precedent to reinstatement.

(a)	Keshia McMillian	\$2,500.00
(b)	Shanicka Tillman	\$980.00
(c)	Sandra King-Bowman	\$750.00

(d)	Terry Settles	\$3,000.00
(e)	Kenny Kilpatrick	\$1,500.00
(f)	Layanna Willis	\$500.00
(g)	Tony Turner	\$1,500.00
(h)	Linda Shaw	\$7,245.00
(i)	Kenneth Gray	\$500.00

3. Further, Ms. Keeler shall contact the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program, or a similar Lawyers Assistance Program in the state in which she resides, for evaluation. If the Lawyers Assistance Program determines that a monitoring agreement is appropriate, Ms. Keeler shall comply with the terms and conditions of the monitoring agreement.

4. The suspension shall become effective ten (10) days after the filing of this Order.

5. Ms. Keeler shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18 and § 19 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and procedure for reinstatement.

6. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3, Ms. Keeler shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$840.00 and, in addition, shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.

7. The Board shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10.

FOR THE COURT:



WILLIAM C. KOCH, JR., JUSTICE