



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: VANESSA GALE KEELER, BPR #20481
CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

December 12, 2013

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On December 10, 2013, Vanessa Gale Keeler, formerly of Memphis, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for three (3) years and six (6) months retroactive to her current three (3) year suspension entered August 1, 2012. Pursuant to the Order of Enforcement, Ms. Keeler shall pay restitution to her former client and the cost and expense of the disciplinary proceedings. Payment of restitution is a condition precedent to Ms. Keeler's reinstatement to the practice of law.

A Petition for Discipline containing two (2) complaints of misconduct was filed by the Board of Professional Responsibility on January 30, 2013. In each complaint, the Hearing Panel determined Ms. Keeler failed to communicate adequately with her client and failed to perform the legal work for which she had been paid. Despite demands from each client, Ms. Keeler failed to refund the unearned fee in a timely manner.

Ms. Keeler admitted violating Rules 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), 1.15 (safekeeping of property), 1.16(a) and (d) (declining or terminating representation), and 8.4(a) (misconduct) of the Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct.

Ms. Keeler must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 and 19, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

Keeler 2182-9 rel.doc

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