



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

10 CADILLAC DRIVE, SUITE 220
BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500
(800) 486-5714
FAX: (615) 367-2480
E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org
Website: www.tbpr.org

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

PLEASE NOTE

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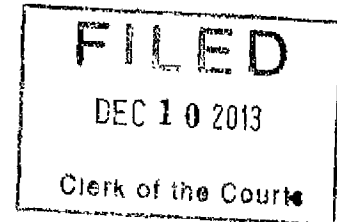
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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: VANESSA GALE KEELER, BPR# 20481

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

No. M2013-02673-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2013-2182-9-AW



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Vanessa Gale Keeler on January 30, 2013; upon Ms. Keeler's Response to Petition for Discipline filed April 2, 2013; upon the Conditional Guilty Plea filed August 21, 2013; upon the Hearing Panel Order of Recommendation of Conditional Guilty Plea entered September 6, 2013; upon consideration and approval by the Board on September 13, 2013; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea as the Court's Order.

On June 26, 2012, Ms. Keeler was suspended for failure to file her Interest On Lawyer Trust Accounts (IOLTA) certification and for non-payment of her Board of Professional Responsibility registration fees. Further, in Case No. M2012-01490-SC-BPR-BP, this Court suspended Ms. Keeler on August 1, 2012, for a period of three (3) years. To date, Ms. Keeler has not been reinstated from these suspensions.

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

(1) Vanessa Gale Keeler is suspended for three (3) years and six (6) months retroactive to August 1, 2012, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.2.

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.7, Ms. Keeler shall make restitution to Tawana Cage in the amount of \$1,226.50. Payment of restitution is a condition precedent to any reinstatement. In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection (TLFCP), Ms. Keeler shall reimburse TLFCP in the same amount. Reinstatement is further conditioned upon Ms. Keeler's compliance with all IOLTA

certification requirements and payment of all outstanding registration fees due and owing to IOLTA and the Board of Professional Responsibility.

(3) Additionally, Ms. Keeler shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 18 and 19 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

(4) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.5, this Order shall be effective ten (10) days after the date of entry.

(5) 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 \$970.31 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.

(6) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10.

FOR THE COURT:

Cornelia A. Clark
CORNELIA A. CLARK, JUSTICE