



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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May 30, 2012

WASHINGTON COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On May 25, 2012, the Tennessee Supreme Court suspended Michael D. Kellum, of Johnson City, Tennessee, for thirty-three (33) months, with credit for twenty-one (21) months suspension served while on temporary suspension, and ordered Mr. Kellum to pay restitution of \$15,936 to five former clients and the Tennessee Lawyers Fund for Client Protection.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline and Supplemental Petition against Mr. Kellum pursuant to Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. The Board of Professional Responsibility alleged that Mr. Kellum accepted fees, but then neglected clients' matters, failed to communicate with his clients and accepted unearned fees.

Mr. Kellum submitted a Conditional Guilty Plea which was approved by a Hearing Panel, the Board of Professional Responsibility and the Supreme Court.

Mr. Kellum's actions violate Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication); and 1.16 (terminating representation). For these violations, the Supreme Court of Tennessee suspended Mr. Kellum's law license. Mr. Kellum must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 and 19 should he seek reinstatement of his Tennessee law license and he may not resume practice until reinstated by further order of the Court.

Mr. Kellum was further ordered to pay the expenses and costs of the disciplinary proceedings, 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.

Kellum 1598-1 rel.doc

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