



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: JAMES LESTER KENNEDY, BPR #005453**  
**CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

January 22, 2020

**KNOX COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On January 22, 2020, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an order suspending James Lester Kennedy from the practice of law, pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.2, for a period of two (2) years and requiring payment to the Board for all costs in the disciplinary proceeding. Mr. Kennedy's suspension is to be served consecutive to a three (3) year suspension imposed by the Order of Enforcement entered June 5, 2019.

A Hearing Panel found Mr. Kennedy knowingly engaged in the unauthorized practice of law; knowingly engaged in conduct involving misrepresentations and deceit in dealings with opposing counsel, third parties and his client; knowingly failed to comply with the Order of Enforcement entered by the Supreme Court on July 20, 2017; and knowingly failed to remove the indicia of attorney, lawyer and counselor at law in his correspondence with counsel, the Administratrix and third parties in violation of Rules of Professional Conduct 3.4 (fairness to opposing party and counsel), 4.1 (truthfulness in statements to others), 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law), 8.1(b) (disciplinary matters), and 8.4(a), (c), (d) and (g) (misconduct).

Mr. Kennedy is suspended from the practice of law pursuant to Orders of Enforcement dated July 20, 2017, and June 5, 2019, and is precluded from practicing law; using any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, or law clerk; or maintaining a presence where the practice of law is conducted until reinstated by the Supreme Court. Mr. Kennedy must notify all clients being represented in pending matters, as well as co-counsel and opposing counsel, of the Supreme Court's Order suspending his law license and must deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

Mr. Kennedy must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE  
AT NASHVILLE

FILED

01/22/2020

Clerk of the  
Appellate Courts

**IN RE: JAMES LESTER KENNEDY, BPR #005453**

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

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**No. M2020-00060-SC-BAR-BP**  
BOPR No. 2019-2964-2-AW

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**ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT**

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against James Lester Kennedy on February 15, 2019; upon Motion for Default Judgment and that Charges in the Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed May 23, 2019; upon entry of an Order Granting Default Judgment on June 20, 2019; upon the hearing in this matter held on July 18, 2019, and the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment of the Hearing Panel entered October 8, 2019; upon service of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment upon Mr. Kennedy by the Executive Secretary of the Board on October 8, 2019; upon the Board's Application for Assessment of Costs filed October 16, 2019; upon the Hearing Panel's Order Granting the Board of Professional Responsibility's Application for Assessment of Costs on November 1, 2019; upon service of the Order Granting the Board of Professional Responsibility's Application for Assessment of Costs upon Mr. Kennedy by the Executive Secretary of the Board on November 1, 2019; upon consideration and approval by the Board on December 13, 2019; upon expiration of the appeal period with no appeal taken; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the Hearing Panel's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment and Order Granting the Board of Professional Responsibility's Application for Assessment of Costs and adopts the same as the Court's Order.

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

(1) James Lester Kennedy is suspended from the practice of law for two (2) years to be served consecutive to the three (3) year suspension imposed by the Order of Enforcement (Docket No. M2019-00926-SC-BAR-BP) entered June 5, 2019, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.2.

(2) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Kennedy must have met all CLE requirements; have remitted all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of this suspension until the date of reinstatement; and have remitted all court costs and Board costs in this matter.

(3) Additionally, Mr. Kennedy shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

(4) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d), Mr. Kennedy shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,354.50 and 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.

(5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective upon entry.

(6) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11.

PER CURIAM