



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JAMES LESTER KENNEDY, BPR #005453
CONTACT: BRITTANY LAVALLE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

January 7, 2021

KNOX COUNTY LAWYER PERMANENTLY DISBARRED

Effective January 7, 2021, the Supreme Court of Tennessee permanently disbarred James Lester Kennedy from the practice of law and ordered the costs of the disciplinary proceeding be paid.

A Hearing Panel found Mr. Kennedy distributed attorneys' fees and personal expenses in a probate matter to himself and others which were not authorized by the court. The Panel determined Mr. Kennedy failed to demonstrate good faith, diligence, prudence and caution and also failed to demonstrate loyalty and fidelity to the estate as required.

Mr. Kennedy violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (Diligence), 3.4 (c) (Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel), and 8.4 (c) and (d) (Misconduct).

Mr. Kennedy must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 28, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.

Kennedy 3055-2 rel.doc

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED

01/07/2021

Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN RE: JAMES LESTER KENNEDY, BPR #005453

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

No. M2020-01738-SC-BAR-BP

BOPR No. 2019-3055-2-BL

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against James Lester Kennedy on November 20, 2019; upon Motion for Default Judgment and that Charges in the Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed February 4, 2020; upon entry of an Order Granting Default Judgment on March 11, 2020; upon the hearing in this matter held on May 27, 2020, and the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment of the Hearing Panel entered July 31, 2020; upon service of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment upon Mr. Kennedy by the Executive Secretary of the Board on July 31, 2020; upon the Board's Application for Assessment of Costs filed October 16, 2020; upon the Hearing Panel's Order Granting the Board of Professional Responsibility's Application for Assessment of Costs on August 5, 2020; 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 August 5, 2020; upon consideration and approval by the Board on September 11, 2020; 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) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.1, James Lester Kennedy is permanently disbarred from the practice of law in Tennessee.

- 2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective upon entry.
- 3) 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 \$433.34 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.
- 4) Mr. Kennedy shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.
- 5) 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