



**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](mailto:ethics@tbpr.org)  
Website: [www.tbpr.org](http://www.tbpr.org)

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**JOSEPH T. KIRKLAND, JR., BPR #7503**  
**CONTACT: RACHEL L. WATERHOUSE**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

July 18, 2012

**MEMPHIS LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On July 13, 2012, Joseph T. Kirkland, Jr., of Memphis, Tennessee, was suspended by the Tennessee Supreme Court for one (1) year, consisting of ninety (90) days active suspension and the remainder on probation, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 4.2. The suspension will become effective on July 23, 2012.

On June 15, 2011, the Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Kirkland, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9. Mr. Kirkland submitted a Conditional Guilty Plea that was approved by the Hearing Panel, the Board and the Supreme Court. Mr. Kirkland violated the Rules of Professional Conduct by using previously disbursed and unclaimed funds belonging to third persons from his trust account to pay for operating expenses of his law firm. The unclaimed funds related to real estate transactions. Mr. Kirkland voluntarily reported his actions to the Board. All funds were replaced in the trust account and then properly disbursed, resulting in no financial loss to the third persons. Mr. Kirkland's actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15 (Safekeeping Property and Funds) and 8.4 (Misconduct).

Mr. Kirkland was further ordered to engage a practice monitor during the probationary period who will review and monitor his office practices. Mr. Kirkland must pay the expenses and costs of the disciplinary proceedings against him, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 24.3, and fully comply in all respects with the requirements and obligations of suspended attorneys as set forth in Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18.

Kirkland 2054-9 rel.doc

**PLEASE NOTE**  
**YOU MAY SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE INFORMATIONAL RELEASES, FORMAL ETHICS**  
**OPINIONS, NEWSLETTERS AND ANNUAL REPORTS ELECTRONICALLY BY SIGNING IN AT**  
**THE BOARD'S WEBSITE**

**[www.tbpr.org/Subscriptions](http://www.tbpr.org/Subscriptions)**