



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
IN RE: MICHAEL J. LaGUARDIA, BPR # 16787
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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March 18, 2005

KINGSPORT LAWYER CENSURED

The Board of Professional Responsibility has issued a public censure as to Michael J. LaGuardia who practices law in Kingsport. Mr. LaGuardia self-reported to the Board. Mr. LaGuardia testified in a pre-trial deposition in his divorce case, wherein he stated that he purchased a Dodge Intrepid in June 2002. He stated that he later sold it to "a neighbor and friend ... Susan Carter." (Susan Carter became Mr. LaGuardia's girlfriend a few months after the divorce began.) Ms. Carter paid him nothing, but simply took over the payments on Mr. LaGuardia's loan. Mr. LaGuardia stated in the deposition that he entered into a financing arrangement to obtain the car for the \$13,000 purchase price. He stated that the dealer financed it "a hundred percent . . . I never had to put a dime on it."

At the trial, Mr. LaGuardia stated that the dealer did not finance 100 percent of the purchase price but that Mr. LaGuardia had put down \$5,700 and therefore had an interest in the car for this amount. He further admitted that he did not tell the truth in the deposition.

Mr. LaGuardia has thereby violated Rules of Professional Conduct Nos. 3.3, 4.4, and 8.4. He did not request a hearing. This censure does not affect Mr. LaGuardia's ability to continue to practice law.

WWH:mw

