



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: WILLIAM BRANCH LAWSON; 010796**  
**CONTACT: ALAN D. JOHNSON**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

May 24, 2019

**UNICOI COUNTY LAWYER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED**

On May 24, 2019, the Supreme Court of Tennessee temporarily suspended William Branch Lawson from the practice of law upon finding that Mr. Lawson misappropriated funds and poses a threat of substantial harm to the public and has failed to respond to the Board regarding a complaint of misconduct. Section 12.3 of Supreme Court Rule 9 provides for the immediate summary suspension of an attorney's license to practice law in cases of an attorney's misappropriation of funds and failure to respond to the Board regarding a complaint of misconduct.

Mr. Lawson is immediately precluded from accepting any new cases, and he must cease representing existing clients by June 23, 2019. After June 23, 2019, Mr. Lawson shall not use any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, or law clerk nor maintain a presence where the practice of law is conducted.

Mr. Lawson 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. Mr. Lawson is required to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

Mr. Lawson must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 12.3(d), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of temporarily suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

This suspension remains in effect until dissolution or modification by the Supreme Court. Mr. Lawson may for good cause request dissolution or modification of the suspension by petition to the Supreme Court.