



**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.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED

05/24/2019

Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN RE: WILLIAM BRANCH LAWSON, BPR #010796
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Unicoi County)

No. M2019-00921-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2019-3003-1-AJ-12.3

ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

This matter is before the Court on a Petition of the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee, by and through Disciplinary Counsel, for the temporary suspension of William Branch Lawson from the practice of law, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.3. The Petition has been authorized by the Chair of the Board of Professional Responsibility and is supported by the Affidavit of Eileen Burkhalter-Smith, Disciplinary Counsel.

Based upon the Petition and the supporting Affidavit, the Court finds William Branch Lawson, Respondent, misappropriated funds and poses a threat of substantial harm to the public and has failed to respond to the Board of Professional Responsibility concerning a complaint of misconduct.

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

1. William Branch Lawson is hereby temporarily suspended from the practice of law as provided in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.3.
2. William Branch Lawson shall comply with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 in all respects and particularly as provided in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28, regarding the responsibilities of suspended attorneys.
3. William Branch Lawson may make application for dissolution or modification of this Order as provided in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.3.
4. The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this suspension of William Branch Lawson to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11.

PER CURIAM