



**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
FA24: (615) 367-2480
E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org
Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: WILLIAM BRANCH LAWSON, BPR #010796
CONTACT: JOSEPH K. BYRD
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

October 27, 2020

UNICOI COUNTY LAWYER PERMANENTLY DISBARRED

Effective October 27, 2020, the Supreme Court of Tennessee permanently disbarred William Branch Lawson from the practice of law and ordered restitution in the amount of \$67,850.00, and costs of the disciplinary proceeding be paid.

The Board filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Lawson consisting of five (5) separate disciplinary complaints. The Hearing Panel found Mr. Lawson failed to appear in court or provide any legal services for which he was paid fees by clients, failed to refund unearned fees to his clients, misappropriated the fees paid to him, misappropriated funds held in his trust account for a third party to settle other obligations and cases, failed to act with diligence in the representation of his clients, abandoned his practice, failed to respond to the Board's lawful request for information and engaged in conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit and misrepresentations in violation of Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.5 (fees), 1.15 (safekeeping property and funds), 1.16 (declining or terminating representation) 8.1 (bar admissions and disciplinary matters), and 8.4(a) and (c) (misconduct).

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

Lawson 3051-1 rel.doc