



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: JANET L. LAYMAN, BPR #021569**  
**CONTACT: MARCY E. SHELTON**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

April 6, 2020

**DAVIDSON COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED**

On March 31, 2020, Janet L. Layman, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Ms. Layman and her former law partner dissolved their partnership at the end of 2014. Prior to the date of dissolution, Ms. Layman instructed office staff to refrain from filing civil warrants on behalf of creditor clients until after the first of the new year. After the dissolution, Ms. Layman did not timely forward to her former partner funds that she received from former partnership clients who had informed her that they wanted her former law partner to continue to represent them when the partnership dissolved. Ms. Layman and her former partner filed civil lawsuits against each other, and the court held that Ms. Layman had converted funds not belonging to her for over a year by depositing some funds into her operating account or transferring funds to herself. In mitigation, the court found that Ms. Layman had eventually turned over all funds due to her former partner.

By these acts, Janet L. Layman, has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.2 (scope of representation and allocation of authority between client and lawyer), 1.15 (safekeeping of property and funds), and 1.16 (declining or terminating representation) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Layman 53607-5 rel.doc