



**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: 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

IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT V
OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: JANET L. LAYMAN, BPR NO.021569
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Davidson County)

FILE NO. 53607-5-PS

PUBLIC CENSURE

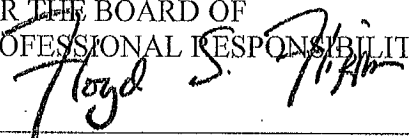
The above complaint was filed against Janet L. Layman, #021569, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on March 13, 2020.

Ms. Layman and her former law partner dissolved their collections firm ("Partnership") at the end of December 2014. Prior to the 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 partners funds that she received from 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 belonging to her former partner or his clients 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 and/or his clients.

By the aforementioned acts, Janet L. Layman has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.2(a) (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.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Floyd Flippin, Chair

3/31/20
Date