

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