

# BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: VANN F. LEONARD, BPR# 27023
CONTACT: KEVIN D. BALKWILL
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

December 29, 2011

### MISSISSIPPI LAWYER DISBARRED

On December 28, 2011, the Tennessee Supreme Court entered an Order of reciprocal discipline disbarring Vann F. Leonard from the practice of law in Tennessee.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a petition for reciprocal discipline with the Tennessee Supreme Court after the Supreme Court of Mississippi entered an Order Accepting Irrevocable Resignation against Mr. Leonard which had the effect of revoking Mr. Leonard's license to practice law in the State of Mississippi and forever barring Mr. Leonard from seeking reinstatement to the practice of law in the State of Mississippi. The Order of the Supreme Court of Mississippi is tantamount to disbarment in the State of Tennessee.

Mr. Leonard must comply with Sections 18 and 19 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys. He may apply for reinstatement of his Tennessee law license after five years and must pay the Board's costs and expenses prior to reinstatement.

Leonard 2075-0 rel.doc

#### PLEASE NOTE

YOU MAY SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE INFORMATIONAL RELEASES, FORMAL ETHICS OPINIONS, NEWSLETTERS AND ANNUAL REPORTS ELECTRONICALLY BY SIGNING IN AT THE BOARD'S WEBSITE

## IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE AT NASHVILLE

IN RE VANN F. LEONARD, BPR #027023 An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee (Ridgeland, MS) FILED
DEC 28 2011
Cherk of the Courts

No. M2011-02085-SC-BPR-BP BOPR NO. 2011-2075-0-RS(17)

### ORDER

This matter is before the Court upon the Board of Professional Responsibility's Petition for Reciprocal Discipline pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 17.

On October 10, 2011, the Supreme Court entered a Notice for Mr. Leonard to show cause, if any, why reciprocal discipline tantamount to the disbarment from the practice of law should not be imposed in Tennessee. By Order of the Supreme Court of Mississippi in cause number 2010-B-2009, Mr. Leonard's license to practice law in Mississippi was revoked and Mr. Leonard was forever barred from seeking reinstatement to the practice of law in the State of Mississippi. Mr. Leonard failed to respond to this Notice.

Therefore, after consideration of the entire file, the Court is of the opinion that the Petition is well taken and the reciprocal discipline as requested by the Board of Professional Responsibility is approved.

It is, therefore, ordered, adjudged, and decreed by the Court that:

- (1) The Respondent, Vann F. Leonard, is disbarred from the practice of law in Tennessee as similarly imposed by Order of the Supreme Court of Mississippi in cause number 2010-B-2009. A copy of the Order of the Supreme Court of Mississippi is attached to this Order as Exhibit A.
- (2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3, Mr. Leonard shall reimburse and pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the costs and expenses of this proceeding in the amount of \$106.66; and, in addition, shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution shall issue, if necessary.

(3) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this suspension to be published in accordance with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10.

FOR THE COURT:

WILLIAM C. KOCH, JR., JUSTICE

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Office of the Clerk
Supreme Court and Court of Ave

SUPREME COURT OF MISSISSIPPI (BEFORE A COMPLAINT TRIBUNAL)

Supreme Court and Court of Appendix
Slowers Mississippi
By D. L. College Living D. Court

THE MISSISSIPPI BAR

COMPLAINANT

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SEP.12 2011

CAUSE NO. 2010-B-2009

VANN F. LEONARD

OFFICE OF THE CLERK SUPREME COURT COURT OF APPEALS

RESPONDENT

### ORDER ACCEPTING IRREVOCABLE RESIGNATION

This matter is before the Complaint Tribunal on the Notice of Irrevocable Resignation ("Notice") filed by Vann F. Leonard ("Mr. Leonard") pursuant to Rule 10.5 of the Rules of Discipline for the Mississippi State Bar (MRD) and the Mississippi Bar's ("the Bar") Motion to Accept Irrevocable Resignation ("Motion"). The Complaint Tribunal finds that (a) the Notice is in proper form and (b) the Bar's Motion is well taken. The Complaint Tribunal accepts Mr. Leonard's irrevocable resignation and grants the following relief:

Mr. Leonard filed a Notice of Irrevocable Resignation with the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Mississippi on July 22, 2011. The Bar filed a Motion to Accept Irrevocable Resignation the same day.

Mr. Leonard's Notice of Irrevocable Resignation complies in all respects with Rule 10.5, MRD.

Mr. Leonard acknowledged he has three outstanding disciplinary matters against him: the instant Cause No. 2010-B-2009 pending before this Complaint Tribunal and Docket Nos. 10-371-2 and 10-471-2 pending before the Committee on Professional Resp. nsibility.

The Bar has certified that these are the only disciplinary matters currently pending against Mr. Leonard as of July 22, 2011.

EXHIBIT A. Mr. Leonard has expressed his desire to not further defend these three disciplinary matters.

Upon the tendering of an irrevocable resignation by an attorney and pursuant to Rule 10.5, MRD, this Complaint Tribunal is required to enter an order accepting the resignation, revoking the attorney's license, and barring forever thereafter the attorney's right to seek reinstatement.

THEREFORE, effective immediately upon entry of this Order, the Complaint Tribunal accepts the irrevocable resignation of Vann F. Leonard; revokes Mr. Leonard's license to practice law in the State of Mississippi, and forever bars Mr. Leonard from seeking reinstatement to the practice law in the State of Mississippi.

The Clerk of the Supreme Court of Mississippi ("the Clerk") shall immediately forward a copy of this Order to each party and to the Executive Director of The Mississippi Bar. Pursuant to Rule 8.6, MRD, the Clerk shall also immediately forward an attested copy of this Order to the judges of the Circuit, Chancery and County Courts of Madison County, Mississippi, with instructions to the senior judges of each of these courts to include a copy in the minutes of each respective Court.

The Clerk shall also forward an attested copy of this Order to the judges of the Circuit, Chancery and County Courts of Hinds County and Rankin County, Mississippi. Additionally, the Clerk shall immediately forward an attested copy of this Opinion and Judgment to the Clerks of (a) the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Northern District of Mississippi; (b) the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of Mississippi; (c) the United States District Court for the Northern District of Mississippi; (d) the United States District Court for the Southern District of

Mississippi; (e) the United States Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit; (f) the Supreme Court of the United States; and (g) the Supreme Court of Tennessee.

The Complaint Tribunal enjoins Mr. Leonard (a) from practicing law in the State of Mississippi, (b) from holding himself out as an attorney at law, from performing any legal service for others, (c) from accepting any fee directly or indirectly for legal services to be performed for others, (d) from appearing as counsel or other representative capacity in any proceeding or court of the State of Mississippi, (e) from appearing as counsel or other representative capacity before any administrative body or agency of the State of Mississippi, and (f) from holding himself out to others or using his name, in any manner, in conjunction with the phrases "attorney at law," "attorney," "counselor at law," "counselor," or "lawyer."

Upon entry, this Order shall immediately become a public record, and the contents of Cause No. 2010-B-2009 shall likewise be a public record in all respects.

Bach member of the Tribunal has demonstrated his approval of this Order by affixing his signature to duplicate original final pages of this Order.

Each member of the Tribunal has demonstrated his approval of this Order by affixing his signature to duplicate original final pages of this Order. SO ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED, this the Y day of 2011.

Presiding Judge

VINCENT J. CASTIGLIOLA Tribunal Member

ALWYN H. LUCKEY Tribunal Member

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SO ORDERED, ADJUDO	BD AND D	ECREED, 1	this the	day of		
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JUDGE MICHAEL M. TAYLOR Presiding Judge

VINCENT J. CASTIGLIOLA

Tribunal Member

ALWYN H. LUCKBY Tribunal Member

. Each member of the Tribunal has demonstrated his approval of this Order by affixing his signature to duplicate original final pages of this Order.

SO CROBRED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED, this the Z day of

JUDGE MICHAEL M. TAYLOR Presiding Judge

VINCENT J. CASTIGLIOLA Tribunal Member

Tribunal Member.

i, Michael W. Catalago, Clerk, hereby certify that this is a true and exact copy of the original