



**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
of the  
**SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE**

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**KATHY A. LESLIE, BPR #13587**  
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**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
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April 20, 2006

**NASHVILLE LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On February 28, 2006, the Supreme Court of Tennessee of Tennessee entered an Order suspending the law license of Nashville lawyer, Kathy A. Leslie for a period of thirty six (36) months retroactive to April 6, 2004, the date upon which the Tennessee Supreme Court has first suspended her license. Ms. Leslie misappropriated client trust funds in violation of DR 9-102(A)(B) in two separate matters.

Disciplinary Counsel filed Petitions for Discipline pursuant to Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. The Hearing Panel of the Board of Professional Responsibility recommended that Respondent be suspended for a period of eighteen (18) months retroactive to April 6, 2004, the date upon which the Tennessee Supreme Court first suspended her license to practice law and that Leslie take six (6) additional hours of ethics continuing legal education above and beyond the required amount in 2006 and 2007. Neither Leslie nor the Board appealed the Hearing Panel findings.

Pursuant to Section 8.4 of Rule 9 of the Rules of the Tennessee Supreme Court, the Tennessee Supreme Court reviewed the recommended discipline provided in the Hearing Panel's judgment. The Court found that the discipline proposed by the Hearing Panel appeared to be inadequate. Therefore, the Tennessee Supreme Court notified the Board of Professional Responsibility and Leslie that it proposed to increase the punishment to a thirty six (36) month suspension retroactive to April 6, 2004, the date upon which the Tennessee Supreme Court first suspended her license to practice law. Additionally, the Court found that Respondent must take six (6) additional hours of ethics CLE above and beyond the required amount in 2006 and 2007.

The Court further ordered that Leslie could appeal the Court's proposal by filing her brief in opposition to the imposition of the stated discipline within twenty (20) days of the date of the Order and that she could request oral argument. The Court ordered that reply briefs should be filed within twenty (20) days of filing of the brief of Leslie. Leslie did not file a brief in opposition and the Supreme Court's Order became final.

Section 18 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 requires Leslie, among other things, to notify by registered or certified mail all clients being represented in pending matters; all co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court's Order suspending her license. Section 18 also requires Leslie to deliver to all clients papers or property to which they are entitled.

Pursuant to Section 24.3 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Leslie shall pay the costs of the proceedings.

This disciplinary matter was held pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 8 and 9. In Tennessee, suspended lawyers may, after the passage of their suspension, apply for reinstatement of their law licenses. However, to succeed these lawyers must carry their burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence that their reinstatement will not be detrimental to the integrity and standing of the bar or the administration of justice or subversive to the public interest.

Leslie 1442-5 rel.doc

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