



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JAMES BRYAN LEWIS, BPR #15116
CONTACT: WILLIAM C. MOODY
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

March 21, 2017

DAVIDSON COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On March 21, 2017, James Bryan Lewis of Nashville, Tennessee, was Publicly Censured by order of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

On April 27, 2015, the Board filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Lewis alleging that he committed ethical misconduct by engaging in an ex parte communication with a General Sessions judge in order to obtain a favorable result for his client. Specifically, Mr. Lewis represented a man charged with domestic assault and who was subject to the statutory 12-hour hold before being released on bond. Without notifying the District Attorney's Office, Mr. Lewis made an ex parte telephone call to a General Sessions judge at his home on a Sunday morning to obtain the waiver of the 12-hour hold.

Mr. Lewis entered into a conditional guilty plea admitting that his actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 3.5(b) (Impartiality and Decorum of the Tribunal) and 8.4(a) (Misconduct) and should be Publicly Censured for this violation.

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

Lewis 2449-5 rel.doc

FILED

03/21/2017

Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: JAMES BRYAN LEWIS, BPR #15116

An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Davidson County)

No. M2017-00563-SC-BAR-BP

BOPR No. 2015-2449-5-WM

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against James Bryan Lewis on April 27, 2015; upon an Answer to Petition for Discipline filed by Mr. Lewis on June 2, 2016; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Mr. Lewis on February 8, 2017; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on February 8, 2017; upon consideration and approval by the Board on March 10, 2017; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea as the Court's Order.

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

(1) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.4, James Bryan Lewis is publicly censured.

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3, Mr. Lewis shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$2,670.78 and 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 may issue if necessary.

(3) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published.

PER CURIAM