



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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July 5, 2012

KNOX COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On July 3, 2012, the Tennessee Supreme Court entered a Judgment reversing the Knox County Chancery Court and affirming a four-year suspension for William S. Lockett, Jr originally imposed by a Hearing Panel of the Board of Professional Responsibility.

On June 9, 2009, the Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Lockett for misappropriating funds from his former law firm. On April 13, 2010, the Tennessee Supreme Court summarily suspended Mr. Lockett from the practice of law based upon his guilty plea to felony theft. On October 6, 2010, a Hearing Panel entered a Judgment recommending Mr. Lockett be suspended for four years. Mr. Lockett appealed the Hearing Panel Judgment and the Chancery Court for Knox County reduced Mr. Lockett's suspension from four years to two years. The Board appealed the Chancery Court's Order and by Judgment filed July 3, 2012, the Tennessee Supreme Court reversed the Chancery Court and affirmed the Hearing Panel's imposition of a four year suspension for Mr. Lockett's criminal offenses of theft and unlawful failure to file an income tax return. Mr. Lockett's actions violate Rules of Professional Conduct 8.4 (misconduct).

If Mr. Lockett is reinstated to the practice of law, Mr. Lockett shall be supervised by a practice monitor for one year.

Lockett 1822-2 rel.doc

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