



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: SHANNON MICHELE LOVINS, BPR #19481
CONTACT: KRISANN HODGES
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

February 25, 2015

SULLIVAN COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On February 20, 2015, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an Order of Reciprocal Discipline suspending the law license of Shannon Michele Lovins, of Bluff City, Tennessee, for five (5) years subject to conditions imposed by the North Carolina State Bar. The suspension is retroactive to December 5, 2012.

Upon receiving notification by the Board of Professional Responsibility that Ms. Lovins was subject to attorney discipline in North Carolina, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered a notice requiring Ms. Lovins to demonstrate why reciprocal discipline should not be imposed in Tennessee. Ms. Lovins' license to practice law in North Carolina was suspended upon finding that Ms. Lovins pled guilty to several criminal offenses involving illegal drugs, disorderly conduct, and driving while under the influence of an impairing substance. Ms. Lovins also failed to conduct the requisite reconciliations of her trust account, commingled funds by leaving her attorney fees in the trust account, over-disbursed funds from the trust account to third parties, and failed to follow mandatory management and record-keeping procedures. There was no evidence that Ms. Lovins' failure to follow proper trust account management and record-keeping procedures was the result of dishonesty or for self-gain.

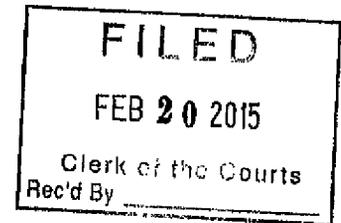
Ms. Lovins voluntarily stipulated to the findings of a North Carolina State Bar Hearing Panel acknowledging that she violated North Carolina General Statutes, Section 84-28(b)(2) Rules 1.15-2(a), (f), (j) and (m), 1.15-3(a), (b) and (d), 8.4(b). After considering the record of the North Carolina State Bar, the Supreme Court of Tennessee found that it was appropriate to also enter an Order of Reciprocal Discipline suspending Ms. Lovins' license to practice law in Tennessee.

Ms. Lovins must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys. While suspended, Ms. Lovins remains obligated to fulfill all applicable CLE requirements and to pay annual registration fees. She must pay the costs and expenses of this proceeding.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: SHANNON MICHELE LOVINS, BPR #19481
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Sullivan County)

No. M2014-02146-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2014-2385-0-KH(25)



ORDER OF RECIPROCAL DISCIPLINE

This matter is before the Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 25, upon a Notice of Submission filed by the Board of Professional Responsibility ("Board") consisting of a certified copy of Consent Order of Discipline entered by the Disciplinary Hearing Commission of the North Carolina State Bar on December 5, 2012.

On November 14, 2014, this Court entered a Notice of Reciprocal Discipline requiring Ms. Lovins to show cause, if any, why reciprocal discipline should not be imposed in Tennessee. The Consent Order of Discipline entered by the Disciplinary Hearing Commission of the North Carolina State Bar on December 5, 2012, imposed a five (5) year suspension; further, it provided that Ms. Lovins would be permitted to seek a stay of the suspension after serving two (2) years of active suspension. The Order provides a number of conditions that Ms. Lovins must meet to request the stay. Ms. Lovins filed a Response to the Notice of Submission on January 29, 2015.

After consideration of the entire record, the Court finds that none of the elements in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 25.4 exist and it is appropriate to enter an Order of Reciprocal Discipline.

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

(1) Shannon Michele Lovins shall be suspended from the practice of law for five (5) years, as imposed by the Consent Order of Discipline entered by the Disciplinary Hearing Commission of the North Carolina State Bar, attached to this Order as Exhibit A. Further, the suspension shall be retroactive to December 5, 2012.

(2) In the event that Ms. Lovins is granted a stay of suspension by the North Carolina Bar, she may apply to this Court for reciprocal relief from the remainder of the suspension.

(3) Ms. Lovins shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 28 and 30.4 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement. While suspended, Ms. Lovins remains obligated to fulfill all applicable CLE requirements and to pay annual registration fees. Ms. Lovins must meet all CLE requirements and pay all annual registration fees prior to petitioning for reinstatement.

(4) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3, Ms. Lovins shall reimburse and pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the costs and expenses of this proceeding in the amount of \$40.00; 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 shall issue, if necessary.

(5) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this suspension to be published in accordance with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11.

PER CURIAM