



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: VENITA MARIE MARTIN, BPR #17469
CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

October 5, 2016

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED

Effective October 5, 2016, Venita Marie Martin of Memphis, Tennessee, was disbarred from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. Ms. Martin must pay restitution to three individual clients and the Board's costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

A Petition for Discipline and Supplemental Petition for Discipline were filed against Ms. Martin consisting of a total of seven (7) complaints of misconduct. A Hearing Panel recommended disbarment after finding Ms. Martin knowingly failed to reasonably communicate with her clients regarding the status of their case; failed to respond to discovery requests; failed to respond to show cause orders; failed to appear at scheduled court hearings; failed to represent her clients in a diligent manner and reasonably expedite their litigation; failed to reasonably notify clients she was abandoning her office and terminating her law practice; failed to provide clients with alternative contact information after abandoning her law office and terminating her law practice, and failed to return unearned fees and expenses to her clients.

Ms. Martin's ethical misconduct violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.16, Declining and Terminating Representation; 3.2, Expediting Litigation; 3.4(a) and (c) Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel; 8.1(b) Bar Admissions and Disciplinary matters; 8.2(a)(3) Judicial and Legal Officials; and 8.4(a), (c), and (d), Misconduct.