



**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.

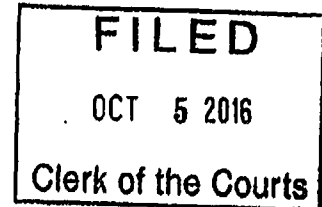
A Petition for Discipline and Supplemental Petition for Discipline were filed against Ms. Martin consisting of a total of seven (7) complaints of misconduct. A Hearing Panel recommended disbarment after finding Ms. Martin knowingly failed to reasonably communicate with her clients regarding the status 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.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: VENITA MARIE MARTIN, BPR #17469
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

No. M2016-01948-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2015-2485-9-AW



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Venita Marie Martin on September 1, 2015; upon a Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed December 15, 2015; upon a Motion for Default Judgment and that Charges in Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed March 7, 2016; upon an Amended Motion for Default Judgment and that Charges in Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed April 4, 2016; upon an Order Granting Default Judgment and Deeming Charges Set Forth in the Petition Admitted entered April 6, 2016; upon the final hearing held May 27, 2016; upon the Board of Professional Responsibility's Application for Assessment of Costs filed June 15, 2016; upon the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment of the Hearing Panel with dissenting opinion entered July 20, 2016; upon service of the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment on Respondent on July 20, 2016; upon consideration and approval by the Board on September 9, 2016; upon expiration of the time for appeal with no appeal taken; 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 Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment as the Court's Order.

On July 17, 2015, Ms. Martin was temporarily suspended by this Court (Docket No. M2015-01291-SC-BAR-BP) pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.3. To date, Ms. Martin has not requested, nor been granted, reinstatement.

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

(1) Venita Marie Martin is disbarred from the practice of law, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.1.

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.7, and as a condition precedent to any reinstatement, Ms. Martin shall make restitution to the following individuals and shall furnish to the Board of Professional Responsibility proof of restitution. In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection (TLFCP), Ms. Martin shall reimburse TLFCP in the same amount:

- (a) Will Crenshaw - \$1,300.00
- (b) Troy L. Vaughn, Jr. - \$2,500.00
- (c) Torrick Brooks - \$330.00

(3) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d), Ms. Martin shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,494.28 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.

(4) As a condition precedent to her reinstatement to the practice of law in Tennessee, Ms. Martin shall meet all CLE requirements; have remitted all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of this disbarment until the date of reinstatement; and have remitted all court costs and Board costs in this matter.

(5) The Order of Temporary Suspension (Docket No. M2015-01291-SC-BAR-BP) entered July 17, 2015, is dissolved.

(6) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective upon entry.

(7) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11.

PER CURIAM