July 7, 2023

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER PERMANENTLY DISBARRED

Effective July 7, 2023, the Supreme Court of Tennessee permanently disbarred Urura W. Mayers from the practice of law and ordered her to pay all costs incurred to the Board of Professional Responsibility.

After a hearing upon the disciplinary petition, a Hearing Panel determined Ms. Mayers withdrew client funds from her trust account without authorization on multiple occasions and used those client funds to gamble at casinos. Ms. Mayers attempted to deceive investigators by making false factual statements and submitting altered bank records. After being temporarily suspended from the practice of law pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, § 12.3, for misappropriating funds and posing a threat of substantial harm to the public, Ms. Mayers failed to comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, § 28 requirements for suspended attorneys by failing to notify the courts, opposing counsel, and clients of her suspension. Ms. Mayers continued to engage in the unauthorized practice of law for an extended period of time, failed to respond to subsequent lawful Board requests for information, and failed to participate in the disciplinary process.

Ms. Mayers’ actions and omissions violated Rules of Professional Conduct (RPC) 1.15 (safekeeping property and funds), 1.5(a) (fees), 3.4(c) (knowingly disobeying an obligation under the rules of a tribunal), 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law), 8.1(b) (bar admission and disciplinary matters), 8.4(a) (violating the Rules of Professional Conduct), 8.4(c) (misconduct involving dishonesty, deceit, fraud, or misrepresentation), 8.4(d) (misconduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice), and 8.4(g) (knowingly failing to comply with a final court order entered in a proceeding in which the lawyer is a party).

Ms. Mayers must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 28 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.