



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: CLAYTON F. MAYO, BPR #14138**  
**CONTACT: KRISANN HODGES**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

February 25, 2015

**MADISON COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On February 20, 2015, Clayton F. Mayo, of Jackson, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for three (3) years. Mr. Mayo must serve one year of the sanction as an active suspension and the remaining two (2) years shall be served on probation subject to conditions that Mr. Mayo engage a practice monitor and engage the Tennessee Lawyer's Assistance Program for an evaluation. Further, Mr. Mayo was ordered to make restitution to former clients and must pay the Board's costs and expenses. The active period of suspension is retroactive to a Temporary Suspension Order entered on January 27, 2014; therefore, Mr. Mayo will be immediately eligible to petition for reinstatement so that he may begin his probationary period.

The Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee initiated formal disciplinary proceedings against Mr. Mayo based upon six (6) complaints of misconduct alleging that Mr. Mayo missed trial dates, neglected clients' matters, failed to communicate with clients and finally abandoned his practice. The clients paid Mr. Mayo a fee, and while Mr. Mayo did some initial work, he eventually stopped responding to them and failed to follow through on their legal work. Mr. Mayo entered into a Conditional Guilty Plea admitting to the misconduct.

Mr. Mayo's actions violated the Supreme Court's Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1, Competence; 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.5(a), Fees; 1.16(d), Declining and Terminating Representation; 3.2, Expediting Litigation; 8.1(b), Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4(a) and (d), Misconduct.

Mr. Mayo must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 (2006) and 30.4 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

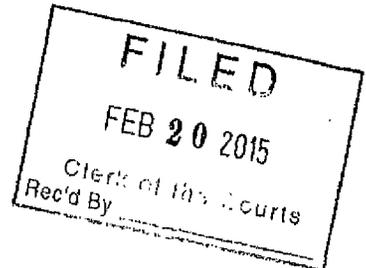
IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE  
AT NASHVILLE

**IN RE: CLAYTON F. MAYO, BPR #14138**  
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee  
(Madison County)

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No. M2015-00276-SC-BAR-BP  
BOPR No. 2014-2361-7-KH

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**ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT**

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Clayton F. Mayo on August 28, 2014; upon Answer to Petition for Discipline filed by Mr. Mayo on October 16, 2014; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Mr. Mayo on January 22, 2015; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on January 26, 2015; upon consideration and approval by the Board on January 27, 2015; and upon the entire record in this cause.<sup>1</sup>

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea as the Court's Order.

On January 27, 2014, Mr. Mayo was temporarily suspended by this Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.3 (Case No. M2014-00145-SC-BAR-BP). To date, Mr. Mayo has not requested, nor been granted, reinstatement.

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

(1) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.2, the law license of Clayton F. Mayo is suspended for three (3) years, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.2 (2006) and § 12.2 (2014), retroactive to January 27, 2014. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 8.5 (2006) and § 14 (2014), one (1) year shall be served as an active suspension and the remaining two (2) years shall be served on probation subject to the following conditions of probation:

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<sup>1</sup>The disciplinary complaints contained within the Petition for Discipline were initiated before and after January 1, 2014; therefore, both the 2006 and 2014 versions of Tenn. Sup. Ct. Rule 9 apply.

(a) Within fifteen (15) days of the entry of an Order of Enforcement, Mr. Mayo shall provide to the Board a list of three (3) proposed practice monitors in accordance with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.9 (2014). After designation by the Board of a practice monitor, Mr. Mayo shall engage the practice monitor who shall provide a monthly report to the Board regarding Mr. Mayo's office management procedures, client communication, and trust account compliance.

(b) Mr. Mayo shall contact the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program ("TLAP") for evaluation. If TLAP determines that a monitoring agreement is appropriate, Mr. Mayo shall comply with the terms and conditions of the TLAP monitoring agreement.

(c) During the period of suspension and probation, Mr. Mayo shall incur no new complaints of misconduct that relate to conduct occurring during the period of suspension and probation and which results in the recommendation by the Board that discipline be imposed.

(d) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.7 (2006) and § 12.7 (2014), and as a condition precedent to reinstatement, Mr. Mayo shall be required to make restitution to the following individuals in the following amounts. In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection ("TLFCP"), Mr. Mayo will be responsible for reimbursement to the TLFCP of the same amount:

i. Michael Grimes - \$7,500.00. Mr. Mayo shall pay \$875.00 every three (3) months beginning July 1, 2015 with any remaining balance due in the month prior to the expiration of his probation.

ii. Nathaniel Howell - \$7,500.00. Mr. Mayo shall pay \$875.00 every three (3) months beginning July 1, 2015 with any remaining balance due in the month prior to the expiration of his probation.

iii. Christopher Sandlin - \$14,000.00. Mr. Mayo shall pay \$875.00 every three (3) months beginning July 1, 2015 with any remaining balance due in the month prior to the expiration of his probation.

iv. Lynn Archer Meece - full satisfaction of the judgment entered in No. 2014CV-1850, *Lynn Archer Meece v. Clay Mayo, Wilson County General Sessions Court*. Mr. Mayo shall pay \$1,000.00 immediately upon entry of the Order of Enforcement. He shall pay an additional \$2,500.00 within the next three (3) months. Following that, Mr. Mayo shall pay \$875.00 every three (3) months

with any remaining balance due in the month prior to the expiration of his probation.

v. Tresha Diffie - \$3,000.00. Mr. Mayo shall pay \$500.00 every three (3) months beginning July 1, 2015 with any remaining balance due in the month prior to the expiration of his probation.

(e) Further, Mr. Mayo shall furnish to the Board of Professional Responsibility proof of restitution made to the above individuals.

(f) If any of the parties mentioned in Paragraph 9 agree to accept less than the amounts set forth in paragraph 9 and indicate their agreement in an affidavit submitted to the Board, Mr. Mayo may reduce his payments accordingly.

(2) In the event Mr. Mayo fails to meet any condition of probation, the probation may be revoked pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 8.5.

(3) Additionally, Mr. Mayo shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 18 (2006) and 30.4 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement. Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Mayo must meet all CLE requirements and pay any outstanding registration fees including those due from the date of suspension until the date of reinstatement.

(4) Further, the Order of Temporary Suspension entered on January 27, 2014 in Case No. M2014-00145-SC-BAR-BP is hereby dissolved.

(5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1 (2014), this Order shall be effective upon entry.

(6) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3 (2006) and § 31.3(d) (2014), Mr. Mayo shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,148.33 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.

(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 (2014).

PER CURIAM