



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: KRISTEN ELIZABETH MENKE, BPR #24600
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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June 21, 2017

DAVIDSON COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On June 21, 2017, Kristen Elizabeth Menke of Davidson County, Tennessee, was publicly censured by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. The Court further ordered Ms. Menke to pay costs and expenses to the Board of Professional Responsibility.

On February 19, 2016, a Petition for Discipline was filed against Kristen Elizabeth Menke. The Petition for Discipline included one (1) complaint of disciplinary misconduct alleging that Ms. Menke made several inappropriate comments in a closing argument. Ms. Menke was an Assistant District Attorney for Davidson County. During her argument in a criminal case, Ms. Menke made direct and indirect references to the defendant's decision not to testify. Further, Ms. Menke improperly injected personal opinion about the justness of the cause in her closing argument.

A hearing panel determined that Ms. Menke violated Rules of Professional Conduct 3.4(e)(1), (2) and (3) (Fairness to the Opposing Party and Counsel); and 8.4(a) and (d) (Misconduct). For these violations, the Supreme Court of Tennessee publicly censured Ms. Menke.

A public censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Menke 2553-5 rel.doc