



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: MICHAEL LEON HARRIS, BPR #30634**  
**CONTACT: ALAN D. JOHNSON**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

June 22, 2017

**SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On June 21, 2017, the Tennessee Supreme Court suspended Michael Leon Harris from the practice of law for five (5) years, retroactive to November 6, 2015, pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.2. Mr. Harris was temporarily suspended from the practice of law on November 6, 2015, for failing to respond to Disciplinary Counsel. Mr. Harris must pay restitution to nine former clients as a condition of reinstatement to the practice of law. Also, Mr. Harris must pay the Board of Professional Responsibility's costs and expenses and court costs within ninety days

On November 3, 2015, the Board filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Harris. On March 31, 2016, the Board filed a Supplemental Petition for Discipline against Mr. Harris. On December 21, 2016, the Board filed a Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline against Mr. Harris. Mr. Harris executed a Conditional Guilty Plea admitting his misconduct.

The allegations in the Petitions for Discipline include instances of lack of diligence and communication, excessive fees, improper termination, failure to expedite litigation, failure to perform services for which he was paid, unauthorized practice of law, dishonesty and conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice.

Mr. Harris' misconduct violates Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.5, Fees; 1.8, Conflict of Interest; 1.15, Safekeeping Property; 1.16, Declining and Terminating Representation; 3.4, Fairness to Opposing Party; 5.5, Unauthorized Practice of Law; 8.1, Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4, Misconduct.

Mr. Harris must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 28 regarding the obligations and responsibilities suspended attorneys.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE  
AT NASHVILLE

FILED

06/21/2017

Clerk of the  
Appellate Courts

**IN RE: MICHAEL LEON HARRIS, PBR #30634**  
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee  
(Shelby County)

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**No. M2017-01211-SC-BAR-BP**  
BOPR No. 2015-2504-9-AJ

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**ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT**

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Michael Leon Harris on November 3, 2015; upon Answer to Petition for Discipline filed by Mr. Harris on February 4, 2016; upon a Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed against Mr. Harris on March 31, 2016; upon a Conditional Guilty Plea submitted by Mr. Harris on October 17, 2016; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea filed on October 26, 2016; upon consideration and approval by the Board on November 10, 2016; upon remand to the Hearing Panel by the Supreme Court on December 15, 2016; upon a Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed on December 21, 2016; upon a Conditional Guilty Plea submitted by Mr. Harris on May 24, 2017; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea filed on June 5, 2017; upon service of the Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea by the Executive Secretary of the Board on Mr. Harris on June 5, 2017; upon consideration and approval by the Board on June 9, 2017; 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 Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea as the Court's Order.

On November 6, 2015, Mr. Harris was temporarily suspended by this Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.3 (Case No. M2015-02137-SC-BAR-BP). To date, Mr. Harris 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, § 12.2, Michael Leon Harris is suspended from the practice of law for five (5) years retroactive to November 6, 2015, the date Mr. Harris was temporarily suspended from the practice of law.

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.7, and as a condition precedent to any reinstatement, Mr. Harris 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), Mr. Harris shall reimburse TLFCP in the same amount:

- Nistephanie McNeil - \$2,800.00
- Dola Rivers - \$2,825.00
- Mary Ringold - \$1,000.00
- Eric Berry - \$1,000.00
- Theotis Evans - \$1,000.00
- Marvell Allen - \$3,500.00
- Antonio Bobo - \$2,000.00
- Franchesca Sanders - \$5,000.00
- Usef Simmons - \$3,850.00

(3) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Harris must have met all CLE requirements; have remitted all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of this suspension until the date of reinstatement; and have remitted all court costs and Board costs in this matter.

(4) Mr. Harris shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

(5) Further, the Order of Temporary Suspension entered on November 6, 2015, in Case No. 2015-02137-SC-BAR-BP is hereby dissolved.

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

(7) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d), Mr. Harris shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$458.55 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.

(8) 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