October 27, 2006

CHATTANOOGA LAWYER CENSURED

Mary Sullivan Moore, a Chattanooga attorney, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility on October 27, 2006.

Ms. Moore is a former Assistant District Attorney General who ran for election as General Sessions Judge in Hamilton County. Ms. Moore's opponents were the incumbent General Sessions Judge and another attorney. On April 21, 2006, Ms. Moore sent an e-mail to the opponent attorney and her campaign treasurer. The email contained statements, “... I have much information that is so very hurtful to so many people, because of what I do for a living. Know that your campaign manager [an attorney] and his family and his partner and his family don't need to suffer simply because we put ourselves out there for election....The Nooga.com was instigated by you and Bob Moon [General Session Court Judge not running in this race] and we all know that...If you want your firm's [campaign manager's] reputation in tact, I hope you will talk to your candidate. THIS IS NOT A THREAT AT ALL....My phones are taped, either by you or Bailes, [incumbent General Sessions Judge candidate] so call me with caution...” The e-mail was the subject of several articles in the media. There were no telephone taps. These statements contain threats or implied threats against the campaign manager and his firm and a false accusation of wire tapping against a sitting judge.

By the aforementioned facts, Mary Sullivan Moore has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 8.2 and is hereby Publicly Censured for that violation.

A Public Censure is a form of public discipline which declares the conduct of the lawyer improper but does not limit the lawyer's right to practice.

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