



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: KRISTEN E. MORRELL, BPR# 22994
CONTACT: KRISANN HODGES
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

April 21, 2011

SULLIVAN COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On April 15, 2011, Kristen E. Morrell of Bristol, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year by the Tennessee Supreme Court and ordered to pay restitution to four (4) former clients. Payment of restitution is a condition of reinstatement. Ms. Morrell is already serving administrative suspensions for failure to comply with continuing legal education requirements and failure to pay registration fees to the Board.

On August 20, 2010, a Petition for Discipline was filed against Ms. Morrell containing four (4) complaints of disciplinary misconduct. A Hearing Panel determined that Ms. Morrell failed to appear in court on behalf of client. Further, she abandoned her practice shortly after accepting fees from new clients. Ms. Morrell promised to refund the fees; however, she did not.

Ms. Morrell's actions violate the following Rules of Professional Conduct: 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.5, Fees; 1.16, Declining and Terminating Representation; 8.1, Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4, Misconduct.

Ms. Morrell must comply with Sections 18 and 19 of Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

Morrell 1960-1 rel.doc

PLEASE NOTE

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED

2011 APR 15 PM 2:32

IN RE: KRISTEN E. MORRELL, BPR #22994
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Sullivan County)

APPELLATE COURT CLERK
NASHVILLE

NO. M2011-00846-SC-BPR-BP
BOPR No. 2010-1960-1-CM

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed on August 20, 2010 by the Board of Professional Responsibility ("Board") against Kristen E. Morrell ("Respondent"); upon an Amended Petition for Discipline filed on September 14, 2010; upon a Motion for Default Judgment and That Allegations Contained in the Amended Petition for Discipline Be Deemed Admitted filed by the Board on November 9, 2010; upon an Order of Default entered on December 22, 2010; upon a hearing held January 19, 2011; upon Order of Hearing Panel entered on February 3, 2011; upon service of the Order on Respondent sent by the Board on February 4, 2011; upon expiration of the time to appeal with no appeal taken; upon consideration and approval by the Board on March 11, 2011; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the Order of Hearing Panel and adopts the judgment of the Hearing Panel as the Court's Order.

Respondent was suspended for noncompliance with continuing legal education on September 7, 2010. She was also suspended on October 25, 2010 for failure to pay annual registration fees to the Board. To date, Respondent has not requested, nor been granted, reinstatement.

It is therefore, **ORDERED, ADJUDGED** and **DECREED** by the Court that:

1. Respondent, Kristen E. Morrell, shall be and is hereby suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 4.2.
2. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 4.7, Respondent shall pay restitution in the following amounts. Payment of restitution shall be a condition precedent to reinstatement.

- a) Ruth Trivett - \$750.00
- b) Kimberly Carter - \$2,325.00
- c) Crystal Puckett - \$500.00
- d) James Johnson - \$485.00

3. In the event that Respondent is granted reinstatement pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 19, Respondent shall be placed on probation for one (1) year. Further, Respondent shall engage a practice monitor who will provide monthly reports to the Board. Finally, Respondent shall undergo an evaluation by the Tennessee Lawyer Assistance Program within ninety (90) days of reinstatement, the results of which shall remain confidential.

4. This suspension shall become effective ten (10) days after the filing of this Order.

5. Respondent was suspended for noncompliance with continuing legal education on September 7, 2010. She was also suspended on October 25, 2010 for failure to pay annual registration fees to the Board. To date, Respondent has not requested, nor been granted, reinstatement. Therefore, the entry of this Order does not affect the continuing validity of the prior suspensions.

6. Respondent shall comply in all aspects with Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 and 19 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

7. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 24.3, the Respondent shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$420.90 and in addition, 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 shall cause notice of this suspension to be published as required by Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18.10.

FOR THE COURT:

Cornelia A. Clark
 CORNELIA A. CLARK
 CHIEF JUSTICE

Michael W. Catalano, Clerk, hereby certify that this is a true and exact copy of the original

filed in the cause.

This 15 day of April, 2011
 CLERK OF COURT

By: Michael W. Catalano D.C.