



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RAMSDALE O'DENEAL, BPR# 13367
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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April 8, 2009

JACKSON LAWYER SUSPENDED

On April 7, 2009, the Tennessee Supreme Court suspended Ramsdale O'DeNeal from the practice of law for one (1) year effective April 17, 2009. Mr. O'DeNeal is also ordered to pay the Board's costs in this matter. Mr. O'DeNeal is currently practicing in Jackson, Tennessee.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. O'DeNeal pursuant to Rule 9 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. After a hearing on the matter, a Hearing Panel determined that Mr. O'DeNeal was negligent in handling a criminal case by failing to file an Order indicating that he was being substituted as the defendant's counsel, failing to follow-up on motions filed by defendant's previous counsel, and failing to appear for two pre-trial status conferences. As a result of Mr. O'DeNeal's failure to appear at the two pre-trial status conferences, the Court found that it was necessary to continue the trial. Further, Mr. O'DeNeal failed to produce his client file despite entry of an Order compelling him to do so.

Mr. O'DeNeal's actions violate the following Rules of Professional Conduct: RPC 1.1, Competence; 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.15, Safekeeping Property; 1.16, Declining and Terminating Representation; 3.4, Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel; and 8.4 Misconduct.

Mr. O'DeNeal must comply with the requirements of Rule 9, § 18 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys. Further, he must comply with § 19 of the Rule 9 should he seek reinstatement of his Tennessee law license and he may not resume practice until reinstated by further order of this Court.

O'DeNeal 1753-5 rel.doc

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