



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: JERE F. OWNBY, BPR #14979**  
**CONTACT: EILEEN BURKHALTER SMITH**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

April 17, 2018

**KNOX COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED**

On April 11, 2018, Jere F. Ownby, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Ownby's law license was suspended on Friday July 7, 2017, but he continued to practice law for three business days after the suspension.

In one client matter, Mr. Ownby failed to notify the court or opposing counsel of his suspension, and he failed to withdraw from the representation of his client at any time. Three months after his suspension, the court set a status conference and Mr. Ownby did not appear or provide any response to the court or opposing counsel. This conduct is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

By these acts, Mr. Ownby has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law), 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice) and 8.4(g) (knowingly failing to comply with court order when attorney is a party) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

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

Ownby 53395-2 & 54463-2 rel.doc

IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT II  
OF THE  
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY  
OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: JERE F. OWNBY, #14979  
Respondent, an attorney licensed  
to practice law in Tennessee  
(Knox County)

FILE NOS: 53395-2-ES,  
54463-2-ES

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PUBLIC CENSURE

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The above complaints were filed against Jere F. Ownby, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on March 9, 2018.

In the first file, Mr. Ownby's law license was suspended on Friday July 7, 2017. Respondent practiced law for three business days after the suspension.

In the second file, Mr. Ownby failed to notify the court or opposing counsel of his suspension, and he failed to withdraw from the representation of his client at any time. The court then set a status conference in the matter, and Mr. Ownby did not appear or provide any response to the court or opposing counsel. This conduct is prejudicial to the administration of justice.

By the aforementioned acts, Mr. Ownby, has violated Rules 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law), 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice) and 8.4(g) (knowingly fail to comply with court order in a proceeding in which attorney is a party) of the Rules of Professional Conduct and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF  
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

*Jimmie C. Miller*

Jimmie C. Miller, Chair

4-11-10

Date