



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: JOHN PHILIP PARSONS, BPR #11636
CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

October 13, 2017

PUTNAM COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED

Effective October 13, 2017, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an Order disbaring John Philip Parsons from the practice of law, retroactive to January 21, 2016, pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 12.1. Mr. Parsons is required to pay the cost of the disciplinary proceeding and restitution.

Four (4) Petitions for Discipline containing nine (9) disciplinary complaints were filed against Mr. Parsons. A Conditional Guilty Plea, executed by Mr. Parsons, was approved by the Hearing Panel on August 30, 2017. Mr. Parsons misappropriated client funds from his trust account, created and filed fraudulent documents with the Appellate Court Clerk, misled his clients regarding the status of their case on appeal, failed to file a notice of appeal and failed to file pleadings and timely respond to discovery. Mr. Parsons' conduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence); 1.2 (scope of representation); 1.5 (fees); 1.15 (safekeeping of property and funds); 1.16 (declining or terminating representation); 3.2 (expediting litigation); 3.3 (candor toward tribunal); 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law); 8.1 (bar admissions and disciplinary matters) and 8.4 (misconduct).

Mr. Parsons must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

Parsons 2586-4 rel.doc

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE



IN RE: JOHN PHILIP PARSONS, BPR #011636
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Putnam County)

No. M2017-02061-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2016-2586-4-AW

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against John Philip Parsons on May 24, 2016; upon a Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed August 26, 2016; upon a Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed November 9, 2016; upon a Third Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed January 20, 2017; upon a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Mr. Parsons on June 5, 2017; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered August 30, 2017; upon service of the Order of the Hearing Panel on Mr. Parsons by the Executive Secretary of the Board on August 30, 2017; upon consideration and approval by the Board on September 8, 2017; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court accepts the recommendation of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea as the Court's Order.

On January 21, 2016, Mr. Parsons was temporarily suspended by this Court (Case No. M2016-00126-SC-BAR-BP) for misappropriation of client funds and posing a threat of substantial harm to the public. He has not requested, nor been granted reinstatement from that suspension.

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

(1) John Philip Parsons is disbarred from the practice of law, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.1. This disbarment shall be retroactive to January 21, 2016.

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

- (a) Clerk of the Circuit Court for Putnam County for the benefit of Alyson B. Pitman, a minor - \$31,984.00
- (b) Blue Cross Blue Shield of Texas for the benefit of Alyson B. Pitman, a minor - \$5,096.00
- (c) Kristopher Lusk and Mary Jane Lusk - \$1,000.00
- (d) Randolph Crouch - \$2,500.00

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

(4) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Parsons shall meet all CLE requirements; remit all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of this disbarment until the date of reinstatement; and remit all court costs and Board costs in this matter.

(5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d), Mr. Parsons shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,147.84 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.

(6) The Order of Temporary Suspension (Case No. M2016-00126-SC-BAR-BP) entered January 21, 2016, is hereby dissolved.

(7) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11.

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

PER CURIAM