



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

10 CADILLAC DRIVE, SUITE 220
BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500
(800) 486-5714
FA24: (615) 367-2480
E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org
Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: STEPHEN WALKER PATE, BPR #6758
CONTACT: KEVIN D. BALKWILL
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

April 8, 2020

RUTHERFORD COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On April 8, 2020, Stephen Walker Pate, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Pate engaged in an inappropriate personal relationship with a client who retained him for representation in a pending divorce action. Mr. Pate's conduct presented the risk of impairment of Mr. Pate's independent professional judgment and to communications protected by attorney-client privilege.

By these acts, Stephen Walker Pate has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.7 (conflict of interest) and is hereby Publicly Censured for this violation.

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

Pate 61168-4 rel.doc

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

IN RE: Stephen Walker Pate, Respondent,
BPR# 6758, an attorney licensed to
practice law in Tennessee.
(Rutherford County)

FILE NO. 61168-4-KB

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Stephen Walker Pate, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered this matter at its meeting on March 13, 2020.

Mr. Pate engaged in an inappropriate personal relationship with a client who retained him for representation in a pending divorce action. Mr. Pate's conduct presented the risk of impairment of Mr. Pate's independent professional judgment and to communications protected by attorney-client privilege.

By the aforementioned acts, Stephen Walker Pate has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.7 (conflict of interest) and is hereby Publicly Censured for this violation.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY


Floyd Fipps, Chair

4-8-20

Date