



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: RUCHEE PATEL, BPR# 26521
CONTACT: KEVIN D. BALKWILL
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

October 28, 2011

SHELBY COUNTY ATTORNEY ON PROBATION

On October 25, 2011, the Supreme Court suspended Ruchee Patel, of Memphis, Tennessee, for nine (9) months with all time probated subject to several conditions. Ms. Patel must engage a practice monitor who shall be charged with reviewing and monitoring Ms. Patel's office practices on a monthly basis. The practice monitor shall focus on office management practice, case deadlines, and client communication. Failure to comply with the terms of probation may result in revocation of the probationary period and imposition of active suspension for the entire nine (9) month period.

Ms. Patel repeatedly failed to timely file appellate briefs in her six (6) criminal appeal cases. She also failed to comply with the rules and orders of the Criminal Court of Appeals directing Ms. Patel to satisfy deadlines in filings. Ms. Patel's actions violate Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 8, Sections 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 3.4(c) (knowingly disobeying an obligation under the rules of a tribunal), and 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice).

Ms. Patel was further ordered to pay the expenses and costs of the disciplinary proceedings against her, pursuant to Rule 9, Section 24.3, of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Patel 2025-9 rel.doc

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED

OCT 25 2011

Clerk of the Courts

IN RE: RUCHEE PATEL, BPR #26521
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

No. M2011-02278-SC-BPR-BP

BOPR No. 2011-2025-9-KB

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed by Disciplinary Counsel against Ruchee Patel, on March 18, 2011; upon an Answer to the Petition for Discipline filed by Respondent on April 7, 2011; upon a Conditional Guilty Plea executed by Respondent on October 3, 2011, and filed with the Board on October 13, 2011; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered by the Hearing Panel on October 17, 2011; upon the Board's approval of the Conditional Guilty Plea on October 20, 2011; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the recommendation of the Hearing Panel and accepts the Conditional Guilty Plea.

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

1. Respondent, Ruchee Patel, shall be and is hereby suspended from the practice of law for nine (9) months, pursuant to Tenn. S. Ct. R. 9, §4.2. However, pursuant to Tenn. S. Ct. R. 9, §8.5, the period of suspension shall be fully probated.
2. The period of probation is subject to the following conditions:
 - a) During the nine (9) month probation, Respondent shall employ, at her own expense, a Law Practice Monitor. In the first month of the probation period, the Law Practice Monitor will meet with the Respondent to discuss good office management practices and make suggestions on improving the Respondent's management of her law practice.

- b) The Law Practice Monitor shall also meet monthly with Respondent to review all of Respondent's open case files to ensure (1) that Respondent is meeting all deadlines in each case and (2) communicating candidly and timely with each of her clients. The Law Practice Monitor shall provide monthly reports to Disciplinary Counsel detailing Respondent's compliance with these conditions.

3. Failure of Respondent to comply with the terms of probation may result in a revocation of the probationary period pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 8.5, and imposition of the entirety of the nine (9) month suspension pursuant to the terms of Respondent's Conditional Guilty Plea.

4. 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 \$ 461.67, 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.

5. The Board shall cause notice of this suspension to be published as required by Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18.10.

FOR THE COURT:


WILLIAM C. KOCH, JR., JUSTICE

I, Michael W. Galante, Clerk, hereby certify that
this is a true and correct copy of the original

filed in the _____

This _____ day of _____, 2011

Michael W. Galante, Clerk