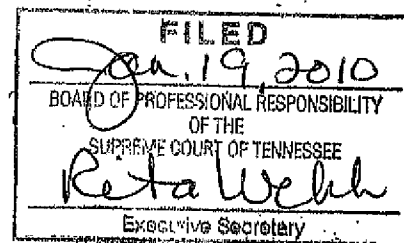


IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT III
OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE



IN RE: CARL F. PETTY, BPR NO. 14989
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Bradley County)

FILE NO. 32262-3-PS

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Carl F. Petty, 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 these matters at its meeting on December 11, 2009.

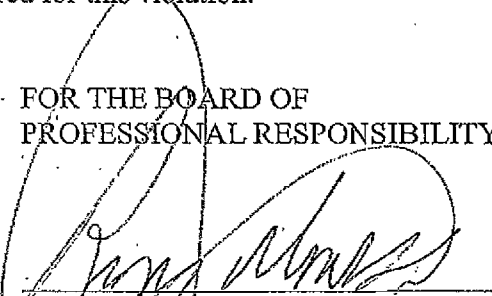
On June 24, 2009, all of the judges of the Tenth Judicial District entered an order immediately suspending the Respondent from practice in all of the courts of record in the district. The most recent appearance of the Respondent before the Informant occurred on June 11, 2009. The Respondent's speech was slow, sluggish, and loud. When the Informant did not grant the Respondent's client the relief she was seeking, the Respondent asked the Informant to recuse himself because he had not applied the law fairly and impartially to the Respondent's client. The Respondent became upset to such a degree that the Informant did not think that the Respondent was sober or in control of his speech and temperament. The judges of the Tenth District were concerned that the Respondent's conduct indicated a pattern of impairment, given his condition in court on multiple occasions, which included having slurred speech, being loud, and making intemperate comments to the courts and counsel. In order to assure the proper administration of justice in the courts of the Tenth District, the judges suspended the Respondent from practicing

until he submitted to assessment to determine whether he suffered from an impairment or disability and completed any appropriate treatment program. On July 17, 2009, the judges entered an order partially lifting the prior order. The judges allowed the Respondent to resume the practice of law in their courts so long as he complied with the conditions of the Tennessee Lawyers' Assistance Program and obtained a practice mentor to be present at all of the Respondent's court appearances in the Tenth District.

The information provided demonstrates that the Respondent has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4 by engaging in conduct that is prejudicial to the administration of justice. The Respondent's disrespectful behavior in the courts of the Tenth Judicial District was sufficiently detrimental to the administration of justice that all of the judges agreed to suspend the Respondent from practicing in their courts for almost a month.

By the aforementioned facts, Carl F. Petty, has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4 (misconduct) and is hereby Publicly Censured for this violation.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Roger Maness, Chair

1-13-10
Date