



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

1101 KERMIT DRIVE, SUITE 730
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37217
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500
(800) 486-5714
FAX: (615) 367-2480
E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org
Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: CARL F. PETTY, BPR# 14989
CONTACT: PRESTON SHIPP
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

January 19, 2010

CLEVELAND LAWYER CENSURED

On January 19, 2010, Carl F. Petty, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Petty conducted himself in a manner that was disrespectful to the judges and prejudicial to the administration of justice in the courts of the Tenth Judicial District.

Carl F. Petty violated Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4 (misconduct). For this violation, the Board of Professional Responsibility publicly censures Carl F. Petty. A public censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

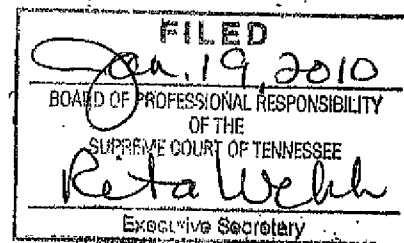
Petty 32262-3 rel.doc

PLEASE NOTE

**YOU MAY SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE INFORMATIONAL RELEASES, FORMAL ETHICS
OPINIONS, NEWSLETTERS AND ANNUAL REPORTS ELECTRONICALLY BY SIGNING IN AT
THE BOARD'S WEBSITE**

www.tbpr.org/Subscriptions

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.

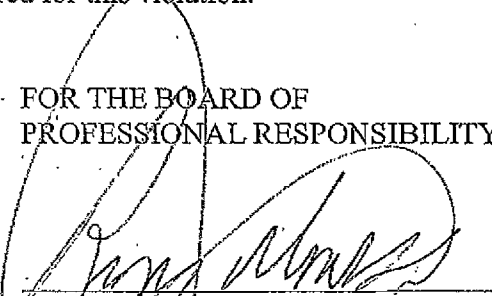
On June 24, 2009, all of the judges of the Tenth Judicial District entered an order immediately suspending the Respondent from practice in all of the courts of record in the district. The most recent appearance of the Respondent before the Informant occurred on June 11, 2009. The Respondent's speech 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