



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: MARK LEE PITTMAN, BPR #12753
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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May 31, 2006

CORDOVA LAWYER DISBARRED

Mark Lee Pittman, a Cordova attorney, was disbarred from the practice of law by order of the Supreme Court of Tennessee filed on May 24, 2006. Pursuant to Section 18.5 of Supreme Court Rule 9, the disbarment becomes effective ten days after the filing date of this order, or on June 3, 2006.

Pittman's disbarment arose out of four petitions for discipline which were filed against him between 2003 and May of 2005, and which were consolidated and heard before a Hearing Committee Panel of the Board on October 17, 2005. By Judgment of the Hearing Panel entered on October 28, 2005, the Panel concluded that Pittman had violated the authorities as cited by the Board in all four petitions and recommended that Pittman be disbarred.

More than twenty former clients filed complaints against Pittman in the four consolidated petitions, and the Hearing Panel found that he had engaged in a troubling pattern of neglect and had knowingly failed to return unearned fees, costs and files to his clients despite numerous requests. Moreover, he was adjudged to have knowingly deceived clients as to the status of their legal matters, the locations of their files and whether other counsel had been employed to represent them. Further, the Panel found that Pittman had knowingly made false statements of fact to the Board and had knowingly violated the requirements of both Supreme Court rules and an October, 2003 Supreme Court order temporarily suspending his law license. Finally, the Panel concluded that Pittman had violated his duties owed to the profession by refusing to withdraw in cases after his temporary suspension and by receiving fees where he performed no services for clients.

The Hearing Panel also ordered that Pittman make restitution of unearned fees and costs to five specified former clients, or to the Tennessee Lawyers Fund for Client

Protection (TLFCP) if said fund pays claims on behalf of these clients. Another recommendation of the Panel included within its Judgment was that Pittman demonstrate having made such restitution to the five former clients or to the TLFCP for claims paid on behalf of the five specified former clients and those paid on behalf of any other complainants who are named within the four consolidated petitions, as a prerequisite to any future petition for reinstatement which Pittman may file.

Pittman did not appeal the Hearing Panel's Judgment to the Circuit or Chancery Court having jurisdiction within 60 days after the mailing of said Judgment to him, as is required. Accordingly, the Supreme Court found that the October 28, 2005 Hearing Panel Judgment was final and unappealable, and adopted the Panel's Judgment in its May 24, 2006 disbarment order.

This disciplinary matter was held pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 8 and 9. In Tennessee, disbarred lawyers may, after five years, apply for reinstatement, but they must carry the burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence that their reinstatement will not be detrimental to the integrity and standing of the bar, or the administration of justice, or be subversive to the public interest.

Pittman 1407-1424-1451-1515-9 rel.doc

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