



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
MARGARET JANE POWERS, BPR # 7328
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

July 19, 2012

CUMBERLAND COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On July 19, 2012, Margaret Jane Powers, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Ms. Powers received a check made out to her client from the opposing party in a divorce. She asked the client if she could apply the check to the outstanding bill owed to Powers. The client refused. Powers held the check for eighteen months, and then asked the client, again, whether she could apply it to his bill. The client did not respond. Powers deposited the check into her account, endorsing the client's name without his permission. Powers later refunded the check to the client.

By the aforementioned acts, Margaret Jane Powers has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15 (Safekeeping Funds) and 8.4 (Misconduct) 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.

Powers 34108-4 rel.doc

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

FILED

2012 JUL 19 PM 12:06

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY

RW EXEC. SEC.

IN RE: MARGARET JANE POWERS, BPR NO. 7328
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Cumberland County)

FILE NO. 34108-4-BM

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Margaret Jane Powers, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on June 22, 2012.

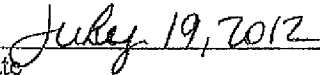
Respondent received a \$300 check issued to her client from the opposing party in a divorce. She asked the client if she could apply the check to the outstanding bill owed to her. The client refused. Respondent held the check for eighteen months, and then asked the client, again, whether she could apply it to his bill. The client did not respond. Respondent deposited the check into her account, endorsing the client's name without his permission. At the request of Disciplinary Counsel, Respondent refunded the check to the client.

By the aforementioned acts, Margaret Jane Powers, has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15 (safekeeping property) and 8.4 (misconduct) and is hereby Publicly Censured for this violation.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Leila Hollabaugh, Chair



Date