



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: ASHLEY DENISE PRESTON, BPR #25642**  
**CONTACT: ALAN D. JOHNSON**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

October 20, 2017

**FORMER DAVIDSON COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On October 20, 2017, Ashley Denise Preston was suspended from the practice of law by the Tennessee Supreme Court. Ms. Preston is suspended from the practice of law for four (4) years retroactive to the date of her transfer from Disability Inactive Status to Active Status, February 23, 2016, with two (2) years to be served as an active suspension and the remaining time to be served on probation. As conditions of her probation, Ms. Preston must engage a practice monitor, make restitution to one client, and satisfy the judgment in *Daffin v. Preston* as appropriate. Ms. Preston must pay the Board costs in this matter within 90 days.

The Board filed a Petition for Discipline and two Supplemental Petitions for Discipline arising from four (4) complaints of ethical misconduct. In one matter, Ms. Preston failed to respond to an Order of the Court of Appeals on behalf of a client. In another matter, Ms. Preston failed to appear in court due to a conflict and the client's case was dismissed. Ms. Preston attempted to alert the court to her conflict, but her communication did not reach the judge and opposing counsel successfully moved for dismissal of the case. In a third case, Ms. Preston accepted a fee to represent a client in a child support matter; however, Ms. Preston failed to do any work on the case. In the last matter, Ms. Preston became sole trustee of her family's trust and began making payments to herself and other beneficiaries that were disputed by one of the beneficiaries. A lawsuit was filed against Ms. Preston for these payments, and a default judgment was taken. Ms. Preston entered into a Conditional Guilty Plea admitting that she violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), 1.15 (safekeeping property), 1.16 (terminating representation), 3.2 (expediting litigation), and 8.4 (a) and (d) (misconduct).

Ms. Preston must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and may not return to the active practice of law until an order of reinstatement has been entered by the Supreme Court.