



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: ROBERT PHILLIP RAYBURN, SR., BPR# 6557
CONTACT: RANDALL J. SPIVEY
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

December 7, 2009

CHATTANOOGA LAWYER DISBARRED

On December 1, 2009, Robert Philip Rayburn, Sr. of Chattanooga, Tennessee, was disbarred by the Tennessee Supreme Court pursuant to Rule 9, Section 4.1, of the Rules of the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court affirmed the ruling of a Hearing Panel after a hearing on three Petitions for Discipline filed against Mr. Rayburn by the Board of Professional Responsibility.

Mr. Rayburn violated disciplinary rules by knowingly and repeatedly depriving his clients of funds to which they were entitled, commingling his client's settlement proceeds with his own personal funds, and failing to be forthcoming with his clients as to when the funds owed them would be paid. The Supreme Court also affirmed the Hearing Panel's ruling that Mr. Rayburn pay restitution in the amount of \$46,829.24 to a former client. Mr. Rayburn's actions violated Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 8, Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (Competence), 1.2(a) (Scope of the Representation and the Allocation of Authority Between the Lawyer and Client), 1.3 (Diligence), 1.4 (Communication), 1.15 (a)-(c) (Safekeeping Property), 1.16(d) (Declining and Terminating Representation) and 8.4(a)-(d) (Misconduct).

Mr. Rayburn was further ordered to pay the expenses and costs of the disciplinary proceedings against him, pursuant to Rule 9, Section 4.7, of the Rules of the Supreme Court and fully comply in all respects with the requirements and obligations of disbarred attorneys as set forth in Rule 9, Section 18.1 of the Rules of the Supreme Court.

Rayburn 1603-3 rel.doc

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