

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY OF THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

10 CADILLAC DRIVE, SUITE 220 BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027 TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500 (800) 486-5714 FAX: (615) 367-2480 E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION RE: CONNIE LYNN REGULI, BPR #16867 CONTACT: KRISANN HODGES BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY <u>615-361-7500</u>

December 30, 2015

WILLIAMSON COUNTY ATTORNEY ON PROBATION

On December 28, 2015, Connie Lynn Reguli, of Brentwood, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for a period of eleven (11) months and twenty-nine days all of which may be served on probation. The conditions of probation include (1) Ms. Reguli must employ a probation monitor; (2) must make restitution to a former client in the amount of \$7,800; and (3) must submit to an evaluation by the Tennessee Lawyer Assistance Program (TLAP) and comply with any monitoring agreement TLAP recommends. Ms. Reguli was ordered to pay the costs of the disciplinary proceedings to the Board and to the Court.

On July 16, 2012, the Board of Professional Responsibility filed a petition for discipline against Ms. Reguli based on three complaints of misconduct. The petition alleged, among other things, that Ms. Reguli failed to return client communications, refund unearned fees, provide an accounting of fees to a former client and the Board, and that Ms. Reguli's website contained false statements.

A hearing panel for the Board found that Ms. Reguli committed ethical misconduct by violating Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4 (communication); 1.5 (fees); 1.16 (declining or terminating representation); 7.4 (communication of fields of practice and specialization); 8.1 (bar admission and disciplinary matters); and 8.4, (misconduct). The hearing panel imposed an eleven (11) month, twenty-nine (29) day suspension, to be served on probation subject to certain conditions. Ms. Reguli and the Board appealed the panel's judgment to the Williamson County Circuit Court, which modified the panel's sanction by reducing the length of suspension, altering and eliminating various conditions of probation, and ordering Ms. Reguli to pay restitution to a former client. Ms. Reguli and the Board appealed to the Supreme Court.

In its December 28, 2015 Memorandum Opinion, the Supreme Court unanimously affirmed the trial court's order of restitution but otherwise reinstated the hearing panel's decision. The Court's Judgment is effective January 7, 2016.

Ms. Reguli must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 (2006) and 30 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

Reguli 2139-6 rel.doc