



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: KEISHA MOSES RICHARDSON, BPR #026492
CONTACT: ALAN D. JOHNSON
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

October 13, 2021

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On October 13, 2021, the Tennessee Supreme Court suspended Keisha Moses Richardson, of Memphis, Tennessee, from the practice of law for two (2) years retroactive to the date of her temporary suspension, January 26, 2018, and indefinitely until she complies with the Court's Order entered on November 17, 2017. Ms. Richardson must pay restitution to three (3) former clients as a condition of reinstatement to the practice of law. She must also pay the Board of Professional Responsibility's costs and expenses and court costs within ninety (90) days of the date of the order. The Court's order is effective immediately.

The Board filed a Petition for Discipline, Supplemental Petition for Discipline and Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline against Ms. Richardson. She filed an answer to the Petition for Discipline, and default judgments were entered against her on the Supplemental Petition for Discipline and Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline.

The Petitions for Discipline included seven (7) complaints of misconduct. A Hearing Panel found that she violated the Rules of Professional Conduct in six (6) of the complaints. Ms. Richardson charged an unreasonable fee, failed to expedite litigation, stopped communicating with her clients, violated a court order concerning custody of her child, engaged in the unauthorized practice of law while administratively suspended and failed to respond to disciplinary counsel.

The Hearing Panel found that Ms. Richardson violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), 1.16(d) (declining or terminating representation), 3.2 (expediting litigation), 3.4(c) (failure to obey obligation under rules of tribunal), 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law), 8.1(b) (disciplinary matters), and 8.4 (misconduct).

Ms. Richardson must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

Richardson 2662-9 rel.doc

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE



IN RE: KEISHA MOSES RICHARDSON, BPR #026492
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

No. M2021-01165-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2016-2662-9-AJ

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Keisha Moses Richardson on November 28, 2016; upon Ms. Richardson's Response to Petition for Discipline filed on January 17, 2017; upon a Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed on May 2, 2018; upon a Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed on August 1, 2018; upon Motion for Default Judgment and that the Charges in the Supplemental Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed on August 1, 2018; upon an Order for Default Judgment on the Supplemental Petition for Discipline entered October 12, 2018; upon Motion for Default Judgment and that the Charges in the Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed on October 15, 2018; upon Renewed Motion for Default Judgment and that the Charges in the Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed on February 15, 2019; upon an Order Extending Time to Allow Respondent to Petition For Disability Inactive Status filed on June 3, 2019; upon second Order Extending Time to Allow Respondent to Petition For Disability Inactive Status filed on August 1, 2019; upon Second Renewed Motion for Default Judgment and that the Charges in the Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed on November 1, 2019; upon an Order for Default Judgment on the Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline entered January 28, 2020; upon hearing on the Petition for Discipline conducted on October 22, 2020; upon the Opinion and Order on Petitions for Discipline filed on January 11, 2021; upon service of the Opinion and Order on Petitions for Discipline by the Executive Secretary of the Board on Ms. Richardson's attorney on January 12, 2021; upon the Board's Application for Assessment of Costs filed on January 20, 2021; upon the Hearing Panel issuing its Findings and Judgment for Assessment of Costs on February 8, 2021; upon the Board's Motion to Alter and Amend filed on February 9, 2021; upon service of the Hearing Panel's Findings and Judgment for Assessment of Costs by the Executive Secretary of the Board on Ms. Richardson's attorney on February 8, 2021; upon the Order Granting Motion to Alter and Amend filed on June 22, 2021; upon

consideration and approval by the Board on August 18, 2021; upon expiration of the appeal period with no appeal taken; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Order as the Court's Order.

On January 26, 2018, Ms. Richardson was temporarily suspended by this Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.3 (Case No. M2017-02286-SC-BAR-BP; BPR Docket No. 2018-2817-9-AJ-12.3) for her failure to comply with this Court's Order entered on November 21, 2017. To date, Ms. Richardson has not requested, nor been granted, reinstatement.

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

(1) Keisha Moses Richardson is suspended from the practice of law pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.2 for two (2) years retroactive to the date of any currently pending temporary suspension, January 26, 2018, and indefinitely until she complies with the Supreme Court Order entered on November 21, 2017.

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.7, Ms. Richardson shall be required to make restitution to the following individuals.

- (a) Lenal Sulton in the amount of \$2,500.00.
- (b) Evone Taylor in the amount of \$5,033.33.
- (c) Richard Dickerson in the amount of \$2,500.00.

Payment of restitution is a condition precedent to reinstatement. In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection ("TLFCP"), Ms. Richardson shall reimburse the TLFCP in the same amount.

(3) As a condition of reinstatement Ms. Richardson must comply with the Court's Order entered on November 21, 2017 pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 27.2 in Case No. M2017-02286-SC-BAR-BP; BPR Docket No. 2017-2791-9-AJ-27.

(4) Ms. Richardson shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 28 and 30.4 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

(5) The Order of Temporary Suspension entered January 26, 2018, (Case No. M2017-02286-SC-BAR-BP; BPR Docket No. 2018-2817-9-AJ-12.3) is hereby dissolved.

(6) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Ms. Richardson must meet all CLE requirements; have remitted all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of this suspension until the date of reinstatement; and have remitted all court costs and Board costs in this matter.

(7) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective immediately.

(8) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3, Ms. Richardson shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,859.37 and shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.

(9) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11.

PER CURIAM