



**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: JAMES D.R. ROBERTS, BPR #17537
CONTACT: KEVIN D. BALKWILL
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

January 22, 2020

NASHVILLE LAWYER CENSURED

On January 22, 2020, James D.R. Roberts, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Roberts enlarged the scope of his legal services with a client and altered the terms of his fee agreement without adequately communicating with his client. Mr. Roberts later claimed an interest in certain funds paid into court for the benefit of his client which led to a dispute and a termination of Mr. Roberts' representation of the client. After a hearing, the court issued a final order denying the payment of any funds to Mr. Roberts. The court found that Mr. Roberts failed to communicate the terms of his amended fee arrangement with his former client and failed to set forth the new terms of his fee in a writing signed by the former client with the opportunity to seek the advice of independent counsel.

By these acts, James D.R. Roberts has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.5 (fees) and 1.8(a) (conflict of interest) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Roberts 54429-5 rel.doc