



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

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**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

IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT V  
OF THE  
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY  
OF THE  
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: James D.R. Roberts, Respondent,  
BPR# 17537, an attorney licensed to  
practice law in Tennessee.  
(Davidson County)

FILE NO. 54429-5-PS

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PUBLIC CENSURE

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The above complaint was filed against James D.R. Roberts, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on December 13, 2019

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 the aforementioned 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.

FOR THE BOARD OF  
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

*Floyd S. Flippin*

Floyd Flippin, Chair

1-22-2020

Date