

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

PUBLIC CENSURE

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