



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: SAMUEL RODRIGUEZ, III, BPR #27880
CONTACT: ALAN D. JOHNSON
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

December 30, 2013

MEMPHIS LAWYER CENSURED

On December 23, 2013, Samuel Rodriguez, III, of Memphis, Tennessee, was publicly censured by the Tennessee Supreme Court.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Rodriguez pursuant to Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court. Mr. Rodriguez submitted a Conditional Guilty Plea acknowledging violations of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 8, Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence), 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.16 (terminating representation), 3.2 (expediting litigation) and 8.4(a) (misconduct).

Mr. Rodriguez was appointed to represent three defendants. He was not diligent in handling his clients' cases. In one case, he did not properly withdraw after the trial court denied his client's petition for post conviction relief, and failed to timely file a Notice of Appeal. In another case, he was appointed to represent his client on appeal and failed to pursue the appeal for an extended period of time. In both cases, the Court of Criminal Appeals granted Mr. Rodriguez's Motion for Delayed Appeal. In another case, Mr. Rodriguez failed to timely file an appeal brief on behalf of his client and was later relieved of representation by the Court of Criminal Appeals. In all three cases, he did not communicate with his clients for extended periods of time.

For these violations, the Tennessee Supreme Court publicly censured Samuel Rodriguez, III, and ordered Mr. Rodriguez to comply with recommendations of the Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program. A public censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Rodriguez 2209-9 rel.doc

PLEASE NOTE

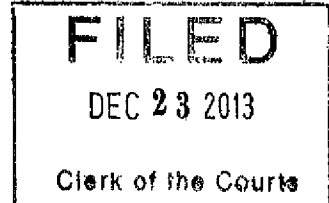
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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: SAMUEL RODRIGUEZ, III, BPR #27880
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

No. M2013-02794-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2013-2209-9-AJ



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Samuel Rodriguez, III, on April 26, 2013; upon Answer to Petition for Discipline filed by Mr. Rodriguez on May 16, 2013; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Mr. Rodriguez on October 25, 2013; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on October 28, 2013; upon consideration and approval by the Board on December 6, 2013; and upon the entire record in this case.

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea as the Court's Order.

It is, therefore, ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court that:

(1) Samuel Rodriguez, III, is publicly censured pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.4. As a condition of this Conditional Guilty Plea, Mr. Rodriguez shall comply with recommendations of Tennessee Lawyer's Assistance Program ("TLAP").

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3, Mr. Rodriguez shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$545.22, 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.

(3) The Board shall cause notice of this discipline to be published pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10.

FOR THE COURT:

Cornelia A. Clark
CORNELIA A. CLARK, JUSTICE