



**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](mailto:ethics@tbpr.org)  
Website: [www.tbpr.org](http://www.tbpr.org)

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**SHELLEY ROTHMAN-BRANNING, BPR# 10830**  
**CONTACT: RACHEL L. WATERHOUSE**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

September 4, 2012

**MEMPHIS LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On August 31, 2012, Shelley Rothman-Branning of Memphis, Tennessee, was suspended by the Tennessee Supreme Court for eleven (11) months, twenty-nine (29) days, consisting of sixty (60) days active suspension and the remainder on probation, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 4.2. The suspension will become effective on September 10, 2012.

The Board of Professional Responsibility had previously filed a Petition for Discipline against Ms. Rothman-Branning, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9. Ms. Rothman-Branning submitted a Conditional Guilty Plea that was approved by the Hearing Panel, the Board and the Supreme Court. Ms. Rothman-Branning violated the Rules of Professional Conduct by agreeing to use previously disbursed and unclaimed funds belonging to third persons from her firm's trust account to pay operating expenses of the law firm. The unclaimed funds related to real estate transactions. Ms. Rothman-Branning voluntarily reported her actions to the Board. All funds were replaced in the trust account and then properly disbursed, resulting in no financial loss to the third persons. Ms. Rothman-Branning's actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15 (Safekeeping Property and Funds) and 8.4 (Misconduct).

Ms. Rothman-Branning was further ordered to perform forty (40) hours of *pro bono* work at a provider of her choice. Ms. Rothman-Branning must pay the expenses and costs of the disciplinary proceedings, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 24.3, and fully comply in all respects with the requirements and obligations of suspended attorneys as set forth in Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18.

Rothman-Branning 2054-9 rel.doc

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