

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

IN RE: Paul Neil Royal, BPR NO. 18207  
Respondent, an attorney licensed  
to practice law in Tennessee  
(Shelby County)

FILE NO. 37003-9-ES

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PUBLIC CENSURE

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The above complaint was filed against Mr. Royal, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on September 19, 2014.

In April 2012, Mr. Royal was hired by a client to oppose a General Sessions civil lawsuit filed by a residential tenant of the client's. The client asked Mr. Royal to file a detainer action to evict the tenant, and Mr. Royal agreed to do so. Mr. Royal neglected to file the eviction action. Mr. Royal appeared in court for the client in the civil action and reached an agreement that the tenant would move out. The civil action was then dismissed. The tenant, however, failed to move out.

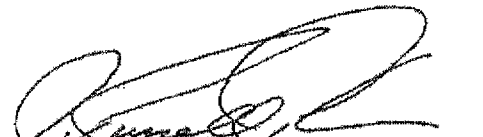
The client then contacted Mr. Royal and asked about the eviction action. Mr. Royal misrepresented to the client that the eviction action had been filed and was proceeding. Over the next year, Mr. Royal made at least four additional affirmative misrepresentations to the client that the eviction action had been filed but was delayed due to various reasons. In April 2013, the client hired new counsel. The new counsel evicted the tenant in 2014.

In March 2014, Mr. Royal reached a financial settlement with the client equal to twenty-

one months of back rent of the residence due to the delay in the eviction.

By the aforementioned acts, Mr. Royal has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(c) (conduct involving dishonesty or misrepresentation) and is hereby Publicly Censured for this violation.

FOR THE BOARD OF  
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



J. Russell Parkes, Chair

10/24/18  
Date