



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: PAUL NEIL ROYAL, BPR #18207**  
**CONTACT: EILEEN BURKHALTER SMITH**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

October 27, 2014

**SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED**

On October 24, 2014, Paul Neil Royal, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Royal agreed to file an eviction action for a client but failed to do so. The client reached an agreement with the tenant that the tenant would move out. The tenant, however, failed to move out. Over the next year, Mr. Royal made at least five affirmative misrepresentations to the client that the eviction action had been filed and was delayed due to various reasons. The client later hired new counsel who evicted the tenant. Mr. Royal reached a financial settlement with the former client.

By these 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.

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Royal 37003-9 rel.doc

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.

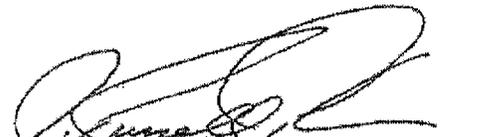
The client then contacted Mr. Royal and asked about the eviction action. Mr. Royal misrepresented to the client that the eviction action had been filed and was proceeding. Over the next year, Mr. Royal made at least four additional affirmative misrepresentations to the client that the eviction action 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