



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: YARBORO ANN SALLEE, BPR #16884**  
**CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

July 24, 2015

**KNOXVILLE LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On July 23, 2015, Yarboro Ann Sallee, of Knoxville, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law for one (1) year by the Supreme Court of Tennessee. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.5 (2006), Ms. Sallee's one (1) year suspension from the practice of law is effective ten (10) days after the entry of the order.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Ms. Sallee based upon two related complaints of misconduct. In the first complaint, Ms. Sallee failed to keep her clients reasonably informed about the significant amount of fees and expenses being incurred, failed to adequately communicate the legal services Ms. Sallee intended to provide, charged an unreasonable fee, and failed to promptly surrender the papers and property of her clients after they terminated her representation. In the second complaint, Ms. Sallee threatened to present a criminal charge against her former clients for the purpose of obtaining an advantage in a civil matter.

A Hearing Panel found Ms. Sallee's conduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4 (Communication); 1.5 (Fees); 1.16 (Declining and Terminating Representation); 4.4 (Respect for the Rights of Third Persons), and 8.4 (Misconduct) and recommended her license to practice law be suspended for one (1) year. Ms. Sallee appealed the decision to the Chancery Court for Knox County, which affirmed the Hearing Panel's decision. Ms. Sallee appealed the decision of the Knox County Chancery Court to the Supreme Court of Tennessee. In its July 23, 2015 unanimous Opinion, authored by Justice Holly Kirby, the Supreme Court held the findings of fact and conclusions of law made by the Hearing Panel were supported by substantial and material evidence and were neither arbitrary, capricious nor characterized by an abuse of discretion. The Supreme Court further concluded that the misconduct of Ms. Sallee justified the imposition of a one (1) year suspension from the practice of law.

Ms. Sallee must pay court costs and the Board's costs and expenses in this matter.

Ms. Sallee must comply with Tenn. Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 (2006) and 30.4 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.