



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: STEPHEN E. SAMS, BPR #22560
CONTACT: WILLIAM C. MOODY
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

December 1, 2014

KNOX COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED

On November 26, 2014, Stephen E. Sams of Knoxville, Tennessee, was disbarred by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. The disbarment is effective beginning December 6, 2014.

On September 2, 2012, the Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Sams. Mr. Sams submitted inflated, false and deceptive fee claims to the Administrative Office of the Courts. From January, 2009 until December 31, 2010, there are approximately 478 days on which Mr. Sams billed more than eight hours to the AOC. For the majority of those days, Mr. Sams billed ten to eleven hours per day. Mr. Sams was unable to produce any documents to verify any billing entry. Mr. Sams billed nearly twelve hours on a day when he attended an eight hour, out of state CLE. Mr. Sams billed the AOC when other lawyers covered for him in court, a practice prohibited by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 13. On January 16, 2014, the Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Supplemental Petition for Discipline against Mr. Sams alleging that he knowingly understated his income in his personal bankruptcy. A Hearing Panel determined that disbarment was the appropriate sanction. Mr. Sams did not respond to the supplemental petition and he did not appear for the final hearing.

Mr. Sams violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct 1.5, Fees; 3.3(a)(1), Candor Toward the Tribunal; 3.4(c), Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel; and 8.4(a), (c) and (d), Misconduct.

Mr. Sams must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18 (2006) and Section 30.4 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and the procedures for reinstatement. He must pay the Board's costs and expenses prior to reinstatement to the practice of law.