



**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.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE  
AT NASHVILLE

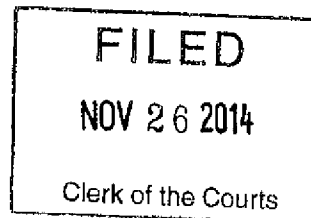
**IN RE: STEVEN E. SAMS, BPR # 22560**  
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee  
(Knox County)

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**NO. M2014-02289-SC-BAR-BP**

BOPR DOCKET NO. 2012-2153-2-KB

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**ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT**

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Steven E. Sams on September 6, 2012; upon Steven E. Sams' Response to Petition for Discipline filed on September 28, 2012; upon an Order on November 6, 2013, striking Steven E. Sams' Response to Petition for Discipline; upon a Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed against Steven E. Sams on January 16, 2014; upon a Motion for Default Judgment and that Charges in Petition for Discipline Be Deemed Admitted filed by the Board on March 18, 2014; upon entry of an Order for Default Judgment on April 16, 2014; upon a hearing on May 30, 2014; upon the Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Judgment entered on September 11, 2014; upon service of the Judgment upon Mr. Sams by the Executive Secretary of the Board on September 11, 2014; upon consideration and approval by the Board on October 30, 2014; upon expiration of the appeal period with no appeal taken; and upon the entire record in this cause.<sup>1</sup>

From all of which the Court approves the Judgment of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Judgment recommending a disbarment.

On September 12, 2013, Mr. Sams was temporarily suspended by this Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.3 (Case No. M2013-02042-SC-BPR-BP). To date, Mr. Sams has not requested, nor been granted, reinstatement.

IT IS, THEREFORE, ORDERED, CONSIDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

- (1) Steven E. Sams is disbarred pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.1 (2006).

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<sup>1</sup>Because this cause was initiated prior to January 1, 2014, it is governed by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 (2006) unless otherwise noted.

(2) Additionally, Mr. Sams shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18 (2006) and Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 30.4 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement. Mr. Sams must meet all CLE requirements and all registration requirements prior to reinstatement. Further, the temporary suspension Order entered on September 12, 2013, in Case No. M2013-02042-SC-BPR-BP, is hereby dissolved.

(3) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.5 (2006), this Order shall be effective ten (10) days after the date of entry.

(4) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3 (2006), Mr. Sams shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$2,617.14 and shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.

(5) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10 (2006).

PER CURIAM