



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: STEVEN E. SAMS, BPR #22560
CONTACT: ALAN JOHNSON
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

August 8, 2016

KNOX COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED

On August 5, 2016, Steven E. Sams of Knoxville, Tennessee, was disbarred from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. Mr. Sams must pay the Board's costs and expenses.

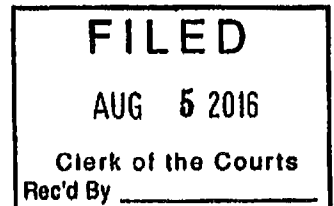
A Petition for Discipline was filed on November 18, 2015, that included one (1) complaint of misconduct. On September 12, 2013, Mr. Sams was temporarily suspended from the practice of law for failing to respond in an unrelated ethics complaint. Following his temporary suspension, Mr. Sams contacted the surviving heirs of a deceased acquaintance, represented to them that he was an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, and offered to serve as the administrator of their mother's estate. Mr. Sams sent the heirs a letter with "Sams Law Firm, PLLC" on the letterhead, and included declinations for the heirs to sign, which stated: "I hereby nominate Attorney Steven E. Sams to serve as Personal Representative." Mr. Sams filed a petition to open the estate that included the declinations and pleadings that represented that his employer was Sams Law Firm, PLLC.

Mr. Sams' ethical misconduct violated Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18.7 (2006), new representation prohibited after suspension, and Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4, communication, 3.3, candor toward the tribunal, 5.5 (b), unauthorized practice of law, 7.1, communication concerning legal services, 7.5, firm letterheads, 8.1, failing to respond, and 8.4 (a) and (g), misconduct.

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)

No. M2016-01588-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR DOCKET NO. 2015-2514-2-AJ



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Steven E. Sams on November 18, 2015; upon Motion for Default Judgment and that Charges in Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed on March 14, 2016; upon Order for Default entered on April 4, 2016; upon the Judgment of the Hearing Panel entered on May 24, 2016; upon service of the Judgment of the Hearing Panel on Mr. Sams by the Executive Secretary of the Board on May 24, 2016; upon the Board of Professional Responsibility's Application for Assessment of Costs filed on May 26, 2016; upon Judgment on Board of Professional Responsibility's Application for Assessment of Costs entered on June 1, 2016; upon service of the Judgment on Board of Professional Responsibility's Application for Assessment of Costs on Mr. Sams by the Executive Secretary of the Board on June 1, 2016; upon consideration and approval by the Board on June 10, 2016; upon expiration of the appeal period with no appeal taken; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Judgment as the Court's Order.

On September 12, 2013, Mr. Sams was temporarily suspended by this Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.3(2006) (Case No. M2013-02042-SC-BPR-BP). On November 26, 2014, Mr. Sams was disbarred by this Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.1 (2006), (Case No. M2014-02289-SC-BPR-BP). To date, Mr. Sams has not requested, nor been granted, reinstatement.

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

- (1) Steven E. Sams is disbarred from the practice of law pursuant to Tenn. Sup.

Ct. R. 9, § 12.1, retroactive to November 26, 2014.

(2) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Sams must meet all CLE requirements; have remitted all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of this suspension until the date of reinstatement; and have remitted all court costs and Board costs in this matter.

(3) Additionally, Mr. Sams shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §§ 28 and 30.4 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

(4) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective upon entry.

(5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d), Mr. Sams shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$522.74 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.

(6) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.11.

PER CURIAM