

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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: GEORGE E. SKOUTERIS, JR., BPR# 13417
CONTACT: KRISANN HODGES
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

April 22, 2015

## MEMPHIS LAWYER DISBARRED

On April 21, 2015, George Ernest Skouteris, Jr., of Memphis, Tennessee, was disbarred by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. This sanction shall run concurrently with a previous disbarment imposed on February 21, 2014. Mr. Skouteris was also ordered to pay restitution to a former client and to pay the Board's costs and expenses.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed Petition for Discipline containing one (1) complaint of misconduct and a Supplemental Petition for Discipline containing one (1) complaint of misconduct. In the first complaint, Mr. Skouteris failed to respond to the client's numerous emails and telephone calls, ignoring her requests for status updates. Finally, the client investigated the matter and discovered that the statute of limitations for her cause expired on October 8, 2010, and that Mr. Skouteris never filed a lawsuit. Without her knowledge, Mr. Skouteris had settled the case for \$10,480.00 and he later informed her that the money had been in his trust account for months. This money was deposited in his trust account, but the balance of the account dropped below what he should have been holding in trust. In the second complaint, Mr. Skouteris was hired in a personal injury case. Mr. Skouteris failed to use a written fee agreement for the contingency fee. Further, he failed to consult and notify his clients about settlements he accepted. Mr. Skouteris made slow installment payments of the funds without adequately communicating with his clients about the total funds due to them. Mr. Skouteris entered into a Conditional Guilty plea admitting to this misconduct.

His actions violate the following Rule(s) of Professional Conduct: 1.1; Competence; 1.2(a), Scope of Representation; 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.5(a-c), Fees; 1.15(a) and (c), Safekeeping Property; 4.1(a), Truthfulness in Statements to Others; 5.5(a), Unauthorized Practice of Law; 8.1(b), Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4(a), (c), and (d).

Mr. Skouteris must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18 (2006) and Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 30.4 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

Skouteris 2268-9 rel.doc