



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: MICHAEL CONSTANTINE SKOUTERIS, BPR #017566
CONTACT: BRITTANY LAVALLE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

May 7, 2020

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED

Effective May 7, 2020, the Supreme Court of Tennessee disbarred Michael Constantine Skouteris from the practice of law and ordered restitution in the amount of \$1,023,344.70 and costs of the disciplinary proceeding be paid.

This order is based upon a Petition for Discipline, Supplemental Petition for Discipline, Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline, and Third Supplemental Petition for Discipline involving nineteen (19) separate disciplinary complaints.

Mr. Skouteris submitted a Conditional Guilty Plea on February 18, 2020, admitting he knowingly and intentionally misappropriated client funds received in the settlement of personal injury litigation claims; knowingly misled clients regarding the status of their cases and the filing of pleadings, and failed to communicate. Mr. Skouteris forged client signatures on settlement paperwork and began new representations while temporarily suspended by the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Skouteris admitted violating Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.2 (Scope of Representation and Allocation of Authority Between Client and Lawyer), 1.3 (Diligence), 1.4 (Communication), 1.5 (Fees), 1.15 (Safekeeping Property and Funds), 1.16 (Declining or Terminating Representation), 3.3 (Candor Toward the Tribunal), 3.4 (Fairness to Opposing Party and Counsel), 4.1 (Truthfulness in Statements to Others), 5.5 (Unauthorized Practice of Law), 8.1 (Disciplinary Matters), and 8.4 (Misconduct).

Mr. Skouteris must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and may not return to the active practice of law until an order of reinstatement has been entered by the Supreme Court.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED

05/07/2020

Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN RE: MICHAEL CONSTANTINE SKOUTERIS, BPR #017566

An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

No. M2020-00674-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2016-2663-9-AW

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Michael Constantine Skouteris on November 26, 2016; upon a Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed against Mr. Skouteris on May 17, 2017; upon a Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed on August 14, 2017; upon a Third Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed on July 26, 2018; upon Answer to Petition for Discipline, Supplemental Petition for Discipline, and Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed by Mr. Skouteris on December 28, 2017; upon Answer to Third Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed by Mr. Skouteris on August 3, 2018; upon entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed by Mr. Skouteris on February 18, 2020; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on February 18, 2020; upon service of the Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea by the Executive Secretary of the Board dated February 18, 2020; upon consideration and approval by the Board on March 13, 2020; 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 Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea as the Court's Order.

On February 11, 2016, Mr. Skouteris was temporarily suspended by this Court, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.3 (Case No. M2016-00291-SC-BPR-BP), and has neither requested nor been granted reinstatement.

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

- (1) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.1, Michael Constantine Skouteris is disbarred from the practice of law.

- (2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, §12.7, Mr. Skouteris shall be required to make restitution to the following individuals. Payment of restitution is a condition precedent to reinstatement. In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection ("TLFCP"), Mr. Skouteris will be responsible for reimbursement to the TLFCP in the same amount:
- a) \$150,000 to attorney John Horne for distribution between George Laverdet, Marci Laverdet, Joe Mendoza, and Gudrun Weigel;
 - b) \$110,387.97 to the law firm of Julie Bhattacharya Peak to be distributed to Vitran Corporation and Liberty Insurance Corporation;
 - c) \$14,612.03 to Latravis Alston;
 - d) \$32,000 to Patty Bogard;
 - e) \$125,000 to Charles Ferguson;
 - f) \$4,900 to Mike Whitaker;
 - g) \$33,333.32 to Darico Randall;
 - h) \$250,000 to Daryl Wall;
 - i) \$200,000 to Darline May;
 - j) \$34,461.38 to Marty Russell;
 - k) \$39,500 to Edward and Yolanda Saulsberry;
 - l) \$12,000 to Joe Gatewood;
 - m) \$8,000 to Lisa Moore;
 - n) \$7,650 to Christopher Short;
 - o) \$1500 to Corrine Broadnax
- (3) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Skouteris must meet all CLE requirements; have remitted all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of suspension until the date of reinstatement; and have remitted all court costs and Board costs in this matter.
- (4) The Order of Temporary Suspension entered on February 11, 2016 in M2016-00291-SC-BAR-BP is hereby dissolved.
- (5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective upon entry.

- (6) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d), Mr. Skouteris shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$3,395.40 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.
- (7) Mr. Skouteris 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.
- (8) 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