



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: THOMAS WOOD SMITH, BPR# 6340
CONTACT: ELIZABETH C. GARBER
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

February 3, 2011

GREENE COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED

On February 2, 2011, Thomas Wood Smith, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Smith was retained to represent a client in a property dispute. Mr. Smith filed a complaint on his client's behalf. Thereafter, Mr. Smith failed to reasonably communicate with his client or promptly pursue the matter. Over two years after the complaint was filed, Mr. Smith represented his client during a mediation of the property dispute and agreed to draft the resulting partnership agreement which would govern the sale of the property. Mr. Smith failed to draft the agreement. Seven months after the mediation, the client discharged Mr. Smith; afterwards Mr. Smith failed to promptly return the client's deeds, plats, and surveys.

In a related matter, Mr. Smith agreed to file an objection to the appointment of his client's sibling as the executrix of their mother's estate. Mr. Smith failed to promptly pursue this matter and failed to reasonably communicate with his client regarding this matter.

By the aforementioned acts, Thomas Wood Smith has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence and promptness), 1.4 (communication), and 1.16(d) (returning property of client) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Smith 32355c-1-KS rel.doc

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IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT I
OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

FILED

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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY

aw EXEC. SEC'Y

IN RE: THOMAS WOOD SMITH, BPR NO. 6340
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Greene County)

FILE NO. 32355c-1-KS

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Thomas Wood Smith, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on December 10, 2010.

The Respondent was retained by his client to represent her in a property dispute. The Respondent filed a complaint on his client's behalf. Thereafter, the Respondent failed to reasonably communicate with his client or promptly pursue the matter. Over two years after the complaint was filed, the Respondent represented his client during a mediation of the property dispute and agreed to draft the resulting partnership agreement which would govern the sale of the property. The Respondent failed to draft the agreement. Seven months after the mediation, the client discharged the Respondent; the Respondent failed to promptly return the client's deeds, plats, and surveys.

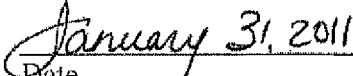
In a related matter, the Respondent agreed to file an objection to the appointment of his client's sibling as the executrix of their mother's estate. The Respondent failed to promptly pursue this matter and failed to reasonably communicate with his client regarding this matter.

By the aforementioned facts, Thomas Wood Smith has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence and promptness), 1.4 (communication), and 1.16(d) (returning property of client) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Lela M. Hollabaugh, Chair



Date