



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

1101 KERMIT DRIVE, SUITE 730
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37217
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500
(800) 486-5714
FAX: (615) 367-2480
E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org
Website: www.tbpr.org

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.

PLEASE NOTE
YOU MAY SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE INFORMATIONAL RELEASES, FORMAL ETHICS
OPINIONS, NEWSLETTERS AND ANNUAL REPORTS ELECTRONICALLY BY SIGNING IN AT
THE BOARD'S WEBSITE

www.tbpr.org/Subscriptions