



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: HARRY MAX SPEIGHT, BPR #7455
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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September 30, 2016

WEAKLY COUNTY LAWYER HELD IN CRIMINAL CONTEMPT

On September 26, 2016, the Supreme Court adopted the recommendation of a Special Master and held Harry Max Speight of Weakly County, Tennessee in criminal contempt and ordered that he pay a fifty dollar (\$50) fine. The Court had previously entered Orders of Enforcement on August 14, 2008 and November 2, 2011, disbaring Mr. Speight from the practice of law.

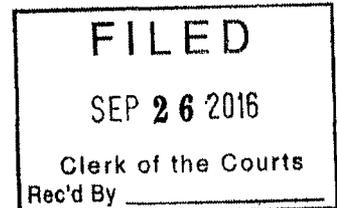
The Board filed a Petition for Criminal Contempt on December 11, 2014, alleging that Mr. Speight had failed to comply with the Supreme Court's Orders of Disbarment, and was engaged in the practice of law in connection with a real estate transaction. The Supreme Court appointed a Special Master and a hearing was conducted on November 20, 2015. In the report and recommendation, the special master found Mr. Speight guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of criminal contempt pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated, Section 29-9-102 (3). Due to mitigating factors found by the Special Master, he recommended the minimum punishment with no confinement.

Speight 2405-8 rel.doc

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: HARRY MAX SPEIGHT, BPR #007455

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



No. M2014-02391-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR Nos. 2007-1670-8-SG, 2010-1928-8-SG (14)

ORDER

By Order of Enforcement entered August 14, 2008, Harry Max Speight was disbarred from the practice of law. On November 2, 2011, this Court entered another Order of Enforcement which disbarred Mr. Speight from the practice of law a second time.

On December 2, 2014, the Board of Professional Responsibility (“BPR”) filed a Petition for Contempt, alleging that “Mr. Speight has failed to comply with the Supreme Court’s Orders of Disbarment, and continues to practice law.”

By Order entered May 7, 2015, this Court appointed Jonathan Steen to serve as Special Master; directed the Special Master to serve Mr. Speight, pursuant to Tennessee Rule of Criminal Procedure 42, with a notice of criminal-contempt hearing; instructed the Special Master to conduct an evidentiary hearing on the Petition; and directed the Special Master, upon completion of the hearing, to transmit the record of the proceedings and a report of his findings of fact and conclusions of law to this Court.

The Hearing before the Special Master occurred on October 23, 2015, and on July 21, 2016, the Special Master filed the record of the proceedings and a report of his findings of fact and conclusions of law with this Court. The Special Master concluded that the evidence established “beyond a reasonable doubt that Mr. Speight engaged in an act of criminal contempt of the Court’s disbarment order.” However, the Special Master recommended that Mr. Speight be given “a minimum punishment with no confinement” in light of “the circumstances surrounding Mr. Speight’s misunderstanding of the law applicable to licensed attorneys whose license is in a disbarred status, his ready admission of the underlying facts in this matter, and his full disclosure to the person who retained his services that he was not allowed to practice law.”

This Court filed an order on August 23, 2016, requiring Mr. Speight to respond to the Special Master's report and show cause why this Court should not enter judgment holding him in contempt of this Court's August 14, 2008 and November 2, 2011 Orders of Enforcement. The Court also ordered the BPR to respond to the Special Master's report.

Upon our review of the transcript of the hearing and the report filed by the Special Master in this matter, as well as the responses to the Special Master's report filed by Mr. Speight and the BPR, we adopt the findings of fact and conclusions of law of the Special Master. Therefore, we hold Mr. Speight in criminal contempt of this Court's August 14, 2008 and November 2, 2011 Orders of Enforcement. Accordingly, pursuant to Tennessee Code Annotated section 29-9-103, we hereby impose a fine of fifty dollars (\$50.00) on Mr. Speight. All costs of this matter are taxed to Mr. Speight, for which execution may issue if necessary.

PER CURIAM