



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

10 CADILLAC DRIVE, SUITE 220
BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500
(800) 486-5714
FA24: (615) 367-2480
E-MAIL: ethics@tbpr.org
Website: www.tbpr.org

RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: PAUL JAMES SPRINGER, BPR #021267
CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

May 22, 2020

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED

Effective May 22, 2020, the Supreme Court of Tennessee disbarred Paul James Springer from the practice of law and ordered him to pay restitution to three clients in the amount of \$59,250, and expenses and costs of this matter to the Board in the amount of \$1,939.12.

Three Petitions for Discipline containing a total of five complaints were filed against Mr. Springer. A Hearing Panel determined that Mr. Springer misappropriated settlement funds belonging to his client; engaged in criminal conduct as well as conduct involving dishonesty, deceit, misrepresentations and fraud; made material misrepresentations to his clients; failed to reasonably communicate with his clients; engaged in the unauthorized practice of law and failed to notify clients of his suspension and withdraw as attorney of record.

Mr. Springer's professional misconduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (competence); 1.2 (scope of representation and allocation of authority between client and lawyer); 1.3 (diligence); 1.4 (communication); 1.7 (conflict of interest); 1.15 (safekeeping property and funds); 1.16 (declining or terminating representation); 4.2 (communication with a person represented by counsel); 5.5 (unauthorized practice of law); 8.1 (bar admission and disciplinary matters); and 8.4 (a), (b), (c), and (g) (misconduct).

Mr. Springer must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

FILED
05/22/2020
Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

IN RE: PAUL JAMES SPRINGER, BPR #021267
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

No. M2020-00716-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2017-2760-9-AW

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Paul James Springer on August 14, 2017; upon the Board's Supplemental Petition for Discipline filed November 13, 2017; upon the Board's Motion for Default Judgment and That Charges in Petition for Discipline Be Deemed Admitted filed January 8, 2018; upon the Order for Default Judgment entered March 23, 2018; upon the Executive Secretary of the Board forwarding a copy of the Order for Default Judgment to Mr. Springer on March 23, 2018; upon the Board's Second Supplemental Petition for Discipline against Mr. Springer filed April 12, 2018; upon the Board's Motion for Default Judgment and That Charges in the Supplemental Petition for Discipline Be Deemed Admitted filed June 25, 2018; upon the Order for Default Judgment entered July 16, 2018; upon the Executive Secretary of the Board serving a copy of the Order for Default Judgment on Mr. Springer on July 16, 2018; upon Plaintiff's Motion to Set Aside or Alter or Amend the Hearing Panel's Findings of Facts Conclusions of Law and Order on Discipline filed September 18, 2018; upon Response of the Board in Opposition to Respondent's Motion to Set Aside or Alter the Hearing Panel's Findings of Fact, Conclusions of Law and Order on Discipline filed September 21, 2018; upon the Hearing Panel's Order entered December 27, 2018 and the Executive Secretary of the Board serving the same upon Mr. Springer on that date; upon the Board's Application for Assessment of Costs filed January 11, 2019; upon Plaintiff's Motion to Set Aside or Alter or Amend the Hearing Panel's Findings of Facts Conclusions of Law and Order on Discipline filed January 15, 2019; upon Findings and Judgment for Assessment of Costs entered January 30, 2019 and the Executive Secretary of the Board serving the same on Mr. Springer on that date; upon Response of Board in Opposition to Respondent's Motion to Set Aside or Alter or Amend the Hearing Panel's Findings of Facts Conclusions of Law and Order on Discipline filed on April 4, 2019; upon Order Denying Respondent's Motion to Set Aside or Alter or Amend the Hearing Panel's Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law and Order on Discipline entered May 8, 2019; upon Respondent's Motion for a New Trial filed June 25, 2019; upon Motion to Dismiss Respondent's Motion for New Trial filed October 4,

2019; upon Order Denying Motion to Dismiss and Denying Second Motion for New Trial entered February 12, 2020; upon the Executive Secretary of the Board forwarding a copy of the Hearing Panel's Order to Mr. Springer on February 12, 2020; upon the Board of Professional Responsibility's consideration and approval of the Order of the Hearing Panel on March 13, 2020; upon the period for appeal expiring with no appeal taken; 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 Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as the Court's Order.

On June 23, 2016, Mr. Springer was suspended by this Court for two (2) years and sixty (60) days pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.2 (2006) (Case No. M2016-01120-SC-BAR-BP) and has not been granted reinstatement to the practice of law. Additionally, Mr. Springer was disbarred from the practice of law pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.1 (2014), on October 2, 2018 (Case No. M2018-01730-SC-BAR-BP), May 24, 2019 (Case No. M2019-00801-SC-BAR-BP), and March 26, 2020 (Case No. M2020-00404-SC-BAR-BP).

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

(1) Mr. Springer is disbarred from the practice of law pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct., R., § 12.1.

(2) Mr. Springer shall make restitution to Demetria Hogan in the amount of \$56,250.00; Nora Jackson in the amount of \$1,500.00 and Kendria Stewart in the amount of \$1,500.00, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R., § 12.7, and that payment of restitution shall be a condition precedent to the filing of any petition for reinstatement. In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection (TLFCP), Mr. Springer shall reimburse TLFCP in the same amount.

(3) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Springer must have met all CLE requirements; have remitted all outstanding registration fees and outstanding professional privilege taxes, including those due from the date of this disbarment until the date of reinstatement; and have remitted all court costs and Board costs in this matter.

(4) Mr. Springer 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.

(5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 31.3(d), Mr. Springer shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$1,939.12 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.

(6) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective upon entry.

(7) 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