



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: PAUL JAMES SPRINGER, BPR #021267
CONTACT: JOSEPH K. BYRD
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

June 4, 2021

SHELBY COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED

Effective June 4, 2021, the Supreme Court of Tennessee permanently disbarred Paul James Springer from the practice of law and ordered him to pay restitution to his client in the amount of \$6,247.34, close his law firm IOLTA account, and pay all costs incurred to the Board of Professional Responsibility.

After a hearing upon the disciplinary petition, a Hearing Panel determined Mr. Springer misappropriated settlement funds belonging to his client, made material misrepresentations to his client, failed to reasonably communicate with his client, and engaged in criminal conduct as well as conduct involving dishonesty, deceit, misrepresentations and fraud and knowingly failed to comply with a final court order entered in a proceeding in which he was a party.

Mr. Springer's actions and omissions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.2 (scope of representation and allocation of authority between client and lawyer), 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), 1.15 (safekeeping property and funds), 8.1(b) (bar admission and disciplinary matters), and 8.4(a), (b), (c) and (g) (misconduct).

Springer 3014-9 rel.doc

**IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE**

FILED

06/04/2021

Clerk of the
Appellate Courts

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

No. M2021-00573-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2019-3014-9-TL

ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Paul James Springer on June 27, 2019; upon the Board filing its Motion for Default Judgment and That Charges in Petition for Discipline Be Deemed Admitted on September 5, 2019; upon the Hearing Panel entering its Order for Default Judgment on October 7, 2019; upon the Executive Secretary of the Board forwarding a copy of the Order for Motion for Default to Mr. Springer on October 7, 2019; upon the hearing in this matter scheduled for October 29, 2019; upon the Board filing its Supplemental Petition for Discipline on January 21, 2020; upon Mr. Springer filing his Response to Supplemental Petition for Discipline on March 16, 2020; upon the Hearing Panel entering its order Denying Motion to Dismiss for Lack of Jurisdiction regarding an allegation of lack of jurisdiction in Mr. Springer's Response to Supplemental Petition for Discipline on April 22, 2020; upon Mr. Springer filing his Motion to Recuse and/or Disqualify Hearing Panel Member on June 30, 2020; upon the Board filing its Response in Opposition to Respondent's Motion to Recuse and/or Disqualify Hearing Panel Member on July 2, 2020; upon the Hearing Panel entering its Order on Motion to Recuse and/or Disqualify Hearing Panel Member on July 20, 2020; upon Mr. Springer filing his Motion for Stay of Hearing on August 19, 2020; upon the Board filing its Response to Respondent's Motion for Stay of Hearing on August 20, 2020; upon the Board filing its Supplemental Response to Respondent's Motion for Stay of Hearing on August 24, 2020; upon Mr. Springer filing his Supplemental Motion for Stay of Hearing on August 28, 2020; upon the Board filing its Response to Respondent's Supplemental Motion for Stay on September 4, 2020; upon the Hearing Panel entering its Order on Motion to Stay Hearing denying Mr. Springer's Motion on September 22, 2020; upon Mr. Springer filing a Motion to Recuse and/or Disqualify Hearing Panel and Assign a New Panel on October 23, 2020; upon Mr. Springer filing his Sworn Notice Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 27.4 on October 23, 2020; upon the Board filing its Response to

Respondent's Motion to Recuse and/or Disqualify Hearing Panel and Assign a New Panel and Sworn Notice Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 27.4 on October 23, 2020; upon a Final Hearing held telephonically during which Mr. Springer made an opening statement objecting to the hearing and then determining not to participate further on October 26, 2020; upon the Board filing its Response of Board to Notice Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 27.4 in the Supreme Court on October 29, 2020; upon the Supreme Court entering its Order denying Mr. Springer's request to seek disability inactive status on November 3, 2020; upon the Hearing Panel entering its Order on Motion to Recuse and/or Disqualify Hearing Panel and Assign a New Panel on November 20, 2020; upon the Hearing Panel entering its Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law on January 13, 2021; upon the Executive Secretary of the Board forwarding a copy of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law to Mr. Springer on January 14, 2021; upon the Board filing its Application for Assessment of Costs on January 20, 2021; upon the Hearing Panel entering its Findings and Judgment for Assessment of Costs on February 8, 2021; upon the Executive Secretary of the Board forwarding a copy of the Findings of Judgment for Assessment of Costs to Mr. Springer on February 8, 2021; upon Mr. Springer filing a Motion for Hearing Panel to Make Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law and to Disclose Relevant Information and a Motion to Set Aside, Make Additional Findings of Fact in the Alternative, Motion for a New Trial on March 15, 2021; upon the Board filing its Objection to Respondent's Motion for Hearing Panel to Make Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and to Disclose Relevant Information on April 12, 2021; upon the Board filing its Objection to Respondent's Motion to Set Aside, Make Additional Findings of Fact or in the Alternative, Motion for a New Trial on April 12, 2021; upon the Hearing Panel entering its Order on Respondent's Motion to Set Aside, Make Additional Findings of Fact or Motion for a New Trial Motion, denying the motion on April 30, 2021; upon the Hearing Panel entering its Order on Motion to Make Findings of Facts and Conclusions of Law and to Disclose Relevant Information, denying the motion on April 30, 2021; upon the Executive Secretary of the Board forwarding copies of both Orders by mail to Mr. Springer on May 3, 2021; upon the Board of Professional Responsibility approving the Orders of the Hearing Panel on March 12, 2021.

From all of which the Court approves the Orders of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law as the Court's Order.

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

(1) James Paul Springer is permanently disbarred from the practice of law pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.1.

(2) Mr. Springer shall make restitution to Pamela Robinson-Moon's estate, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.7, in the amount of \$6,247.34.

(3) Mr. Springer shall, within ten (10) days of the entry of this Order of Enforcement, close his law firm IOLTA account ending in number 0241. In the event Mr. Springer does not close his law firm IOLTA account, First Tennessee Bank a/k/a First Horizon Bank is hereby authorized to take all steps necessary to close Mr. Springer's law firm IOLTA account ending in number 0241. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 28.1, this Order shall be effective upon entry.

(4) 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 \$1,957.45 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.

(5) 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