



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

IN RE: NICHOLAS LEE SURRATT, #035010
Respondent, an attorney licensed to
practice law in Tennessee
(Hardin County)

FILE NO. 100936-2025-7-PF-INV

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Nicholas Lee Surratt, #035010, an attorney licensed in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on September 12, 2025.

Mr. Surratt represented a criminal defendant in appealing a conviction. Mr. Surratt failed to file the trial court transcript within the time prescribed by applicable rules of court. Mr. Surratt failed to respond to notices from the Court of Criminal Appeals regarding the failure to file the transcript, which resulted in a show cause proceeding where Mr. Surratt was found in willful contempt. Mr. Surratt also failed to comply with subsequent orders entered by the Court of Criminal Appeals establishing deadlines for the filing of his client's principal brief.

By these acts, Mr. Surratt has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1 (*competence*), 1.3 (*diligence*), (*expediting litigation*), 3.2 (*expediting litigation*), 3.4(c)(*knowing violation of an obligation under the rules of a tribunal*), 8.4(d)(*conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice*), and 8.4(g)(*violation of a court order*) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



R. Culver Schmid, Chair



Date