



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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October 13, 2008

NEWPORT LAWYER SUSPENDED

On September 29, 2008, Susanna Laws Thomas, of Newport, Tennessee, was suspended for five (5) years, retroactive to September 19, 2007, by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition and Supplemental Petition for Discipline against Ms. Thomas based upon a conflict of interest; attempting to tamper with evidence; obstruction of justice; disruptive conduct before a court; communicating with a represented party; failing to adequately communicate with her clients and then eventually abandoning her practice. The Tennessee Supreme Court ordered Ms. Thomas suspended from the practice of law for five (5) years, retroactive to September 19, 2007.

Ms. Thomas must comply with the requirements of Section 19 of Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court, should she seek reinstatement of her Tennessee law license. Additionally, the Tennessee Supreme Court's September 29, 2008, Order finds that should Ms. Thomas seek reinstatement of her Tennessee law license, Ms. Thomas shall obtain statements from complainants reflecting Ms. Thomas' satisfactory restitution to each; have an assessment performed by a professional recommended by Tennessee Lawyer's Assistance Program (TLAP) and comply with any recommendations of that professional. Ms. Thomas must further comply with Section 18 of Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court, regarding obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

Thomas 1460-1 rel.doc

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