

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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: THOMAS W. THOMPSON, BPR #030659
CONTACT: WILLIAM C. MOODY
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

March 25, 2019

## **TENNESSEE ATTORNEY CENSURED**

On March 25, 2019, Thomas W. Thompson, of Tampa, Florida, was publicly censured by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. As a condition of his public censure, Mr. Thompson must withdraw from all Tennessee cases where he is attorney of record. Mr. Thompson must pay the Board's costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

On July 6, 2018, a Petition for Discipline was filed against Mr. Thompson alleging that he committed ethical misconduct by practicing law while suspended for failing to comply with continuing legal education requirements. Mr. Thompson resides in Florida where he is licensed to practice law. He is also licensed to practice law in Tennessee. He was suspended by the Tennessee Supreme Court on August 16, 2016, for failing to comply with continuing legal education requirements. While suspended, four lawsuits were filed in Tennessee naming him as the attorney for the plaintiffs. The lawsuits were prepared and filed by Mr. Thompson's nonlawyer staff without his knowledge. Mr. Thompson has not yet withdrawn from the cases.

Mr. Thompson entered into a conditional guilty plea admitting that his actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 5.5(a), Unauthorized Practice of Law; and 8.4, Misconduct.

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Thompson 2885-0 rel.doc