



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**ROBERT J. TURNER, BPR #15107**  
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**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

February 12, 2009

**NASHVILLE LAWYER SUSPENDED**

On February 9, 2009, the Tennessee Supreme Court suspended Robert J. Turner, of Nashville, Tennessee, for one year with all time probated subject to several conditions. Mr. Turner must engage a practice monitor who shall be charged with reviewing and monitoring Mr. Turner's office practices on a monthly basis. The practice monitor shall focus on client communications, fee agreements, and the timeliness of case related tasks. Failure to comply with the terms of probation may result in revocation of the probationary period and imposition of license suspension for the remainder of the period. Mr. Turner is also ordered to pay the Board's costs in this matter.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline and a Supplemental Petition for Discipline against Mr. Turner pursuant to Rule 9 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. Mr. Turner entered a Conditional Guilty Plea which was accepted and approved by a Hearing Panel. The Petitions were based upon four complaints of ethical misconduct. In the first, Mr. Turner failed to deliver domestic partnership documents to his client. In the second, Mr. Turner failed to communicate with his client in a reasonable manner about her pending case, failed to timely respond to discovery requests by the opposing party, and failed to protect his client's claims and defenses by neglecting to raise a critical defense. In the third complaint, Mr. Turner failed to conduct himself in a professional manner by approaching an opposing party in the courtroom and making a rude comment. Finally, Mr. Turner failed to communicate with a client about the dismissal of her case for lack of prosecution.

Mr. Turner's actions violate the following Disciplinary Rules and Rules of Professional Conduct: DR 1-102, Misconduct; DR 2-110, Withdrawal from Employment; DR 6-101, Failing to Act Competently; DR 7-101, Representing a Client Zealously; DR 9-102, Preserving the Identity of Funds of the Client; RPC 1.1, Competence; 1.2, Scope of Representation ; 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.5, Fees; 1.15, Safekeeping Property; 1.16, Declining and Terminating Representation; 3.2, Expediting Litigation; 4.1, Truthfulness and Candor in Statements to Others; 4.2, Communication With a Person Represented by Counsel; 4.4, Respect for the Rights of Third Persons; 8.1, Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4 Misconduct.

Turner 1535-5 rel.doc

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