



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: ELIZABETH CATHERINE VELASQUEZ, BPR #028884
CONTACT: KRISANN HODGES
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

October 17, 2018

SEVIER COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On October 17, 2018, the Tennessee Supreme Court suspended Elizabeth Catherine Velasquez from the practice of law for five (5) years with three (3) years served as an active suspension and the remainder on probation. Ms. Velasquez must pay restitution to a former client and contact the Tennessee Lawyer's Assistance Program as a condition of reinstatement to the practice of law. During probation, Ms. Velasquez must engage a practice monitor. Finally, Ms. Velasquez must pay the Board of Professional Responsibility's costs and expenses and court costs within ninety days.

A Petition for Discipline was filed against Elizabeth Catherine Velasquez on January 29, 2018, containing one (1) complaint of ethical misconduct. A hearing panel determined that Ms. Velasquez failed to communicate and diligently represent her client. Ms. Velasquez abandoned the client's case. Ms. Velasquez did not respond to the Petition for Discipline and an Order for Default Judgment was entered against her.

Ms. Velasquez's misconduct violates Rules of Professional Conduct 1.1, Competence; 1.2, Scope of Representation and Allocation of Authority; 1.3, Diligence; 1.4, Communication; 1.5(a), Fees; 1.16(d), Declining or Terminating Representation; 3.2, Expediting Representation; 8.1(b), Bar Admission and Disciplinary Matters; and 8.4(a) and (d), Misconduct.

Ms. Velasquez must comply with Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 30.4 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.