



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
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May 4, 2006

NASHVILLE LAWYER DISBARRED

On May 1, 2006, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an order disbaring D. Michael Van Sant from the practice of law.

A petition for discipline involving a disciplinary complaint was filed on September 16, 2004. A motion for default judgment on the petition for discipline was filed July 7, 2005.

On December 19, 2005, a hearing panel of the Board of Professional Responsibility convened. The respondent, D. Michael Van Sant, was given proper notice of the hearing but failed to appear.

The hearing panel heard argument from disciplinary counsel on December 27, 2005. The hearing panel found that the respondent knowingly failed to perform services to clients and neglected matters of clients. The hearing panel found as an aggravating factor that respondent had prior public discipline of a public censure and a suspension.

The hearing panel granted the motion for default judgment and recommended that the respondent be disbarred. Neither party appealed the Judgment of the Hearing Panel.

Based upon the hearing panel's recommendation, the Supreme Court entered the order of disbarment. A disbarred attorney may not apply for reinstatement for at least five years after the effective date of disbarment. An attorney petitioning for reinstatement after disbarment must have a hearing before a hearing panel of the Board of Professional Responsibility. After the hearing, the hearing panel makes a written report to the Supreme Court recommending for or against reinstatement. The attorney shall be reinstated only by order of the Supreme Court.

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