



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: REBECCA C. VERNETTI, BPR #22870
CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

March 28, 2014

KNOX COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On March 21, 2014, Rebecca C. Vernetti, of Knoxville, Tennessee, was suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court for three (3) years and ordered to pay the Board's costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.

A Petition for Discipline was filed on April 10, 2013, alleging Ms. Vernetti made misrepresentations to the court and opposing counsel, failed to maintain disputed funds in her trust account, used disputed funds for her personal benefit, shared legal fees with a non-attorney husband and failed to maintain professional independence. Ms. Vernetti entered into a Conditional Guilty Plea admitting her misconduct.

Ms. Vernetti's unethical conduct violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.15 (safekeeping property and funds); 3.3 (candor toward the tribunal); 4.1 (truthfulness in statements to others); 5.4 (professional independence of a lawyer); and 8.4 (misconduct).

Ms. Vernetti must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

Vernetti 2200-2 rel.doc

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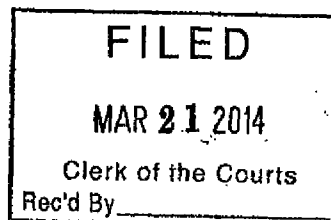
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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: REBECCA C. VERNETTI, BPR #22870

An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Knox County)

No. M2014-00528-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2013-2200-2-AW



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Rebecca C. Vernetti on April 10, 2013¹; upon Ms. Vernetti's Answer filed pro se on May 28, 2013; upon the Answer of Respondent Rebecca C. Vernetti filed by counsel on July 31, 2013; upon the entry of a Conditional Guilty Plea filed on February 12, 2014; upon an Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea entered on February 14, 2014; upon consideration and approval by the Board on March 14, 2014; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Order Recommending Approval of Conditional Guilty Plea as the Court's Order.

It is, therefore, ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court that:

(1) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.2, Rebecca C. Vernetti is suspended for three (3) years.

(2) Ms. Vernetti shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys.

(3) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.5, this Order shall be effective ten (10) days after the date of entry.

¹Because this cause was initiated prior to January 1, 2014, it is governed by the pre-2014 version of Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9

(4) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3, Ms. Verneti shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$2,086.52 and shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.

(5) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10.

FOR THE COURT:

Cornelia A. Clark
CORNELIA A. CLARK, JUSTICE