



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: ROBERT LEE VOGEL, BPR #23374
CONTACT: WILLIAM C. MOODY
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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February 5, 2016

KNOX COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On February 4, 2016, Robert Lee Vogel, of Knoxville, Tennessee, was suspended by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court, effective February 14, 2016, for one (1) year.

Mr. Vogel was appointed to represent a woman charged with felony drug offenses in federal court. While representing her, Mr. Vogel engaged in sexual relations with her on at least three (3) occasions. In so doing, he exploited his fiduciary relationship with his client to further his own personal interests. In another case, after Mr. Vogel withdrew from representation of a client, he wrote a letter to his former client explaining his reasons for withdrawing and sent a copy to the judge presiding over her case, thereby revealing confidential information in violation of his duties to his former client and resulting in the judge recusing himself from the case.

A hearing panel recommended that Mr. Vogel be suspended for twelve (12) months, with thirty (30) days served on active suspension and the remainder on probation with conditions. Pursuant to Rule 9, Section 8.4, the Supreme Court found that the hearing panel's punishment was inadequate. It modified the judgment of the hearing panel to impose a one (1) year active suspension.

Mr. Vogel's actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.7(a)(2), Conflict of Interest: Current Clients; 1.9(c), Duties to Former Clients; and, 8.4(a), Misconduct.

Mr. Vogel must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 18 (2006) and 30.4 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys. Mr. Vogel must pay the Board's costs and expenses and the court costs within ninety days of the entry of the Order of Enforcement.