



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

10 CADILLAC DRIVE, SUITE 220  
BRENTWOOD, TENNESSEE 37027  
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500  
(800) 486-5714  
FAX: (615) 367-2480  
E-MAIL: [ethics@tbpr.org](mailto:ethics@tbpr.org)  
Website: [www.tbpr.org](http://www.tbpr.org)

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: MARIE A. WASHINGTON, BPR #010854**  
**CONTACT: KEVIN D. BALKWILL**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

January 10, 2020

**MEMPHIS LAWYER CENSURED**

On January 10, 2020, Marie A. Washington, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Ms. Washington did not adequately communicate to her client the terms of her fee agreement. Ms. Washington made application to the court for payment of her fees which was far in excess of the outstanding amount previously provided to her client. Ms. Washington failed to notify the court that she had been paid by her client for a portion of the legal services submitted in her fee application. The court approved a significant portion of Ms. Washington's fee request. Ms. Washington's client retained new counsel and notified Ms. Washington of a claim to a portion of the fees which were to be paid to Ms. Washington. Upon receipt of funds pursuant to her approved fee application, Ms. Washington failed to safeguard the funds until the dispute with her former client was resolved.

By these acts, Marie A. Washington has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), 1.15 (safekeeping property), 3.3 (candor toward tribunal), and 8.4(a)(c)(d) (misconduct) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

Washington 60649-9 rel.doc