



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

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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

IN DISCIPLINARY DISTRICT IX
OF THE
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

IN RE: Marie A. Washington, Respondent,
BPR# 10854, an attorney licensed to
practice law in Tennessee.
(Shelby County)

FILE NO. 60649-9-KB

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Marie A. Washington, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on December 13, 2019

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 the aforementioned 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.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

Floyd S. Flippin
Floyd Flippin, Chair

1-10-2020
Date