

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