

FILED
July 14 2010
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
Keta Welch
Executive Secretary

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

IN RE: ALBERT L. WATSON, III, BPR NO. 1516
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Hamilton County)

FILE NO. 32392-3-PS

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Albert L. Watson, III, 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 June 11, 2010.

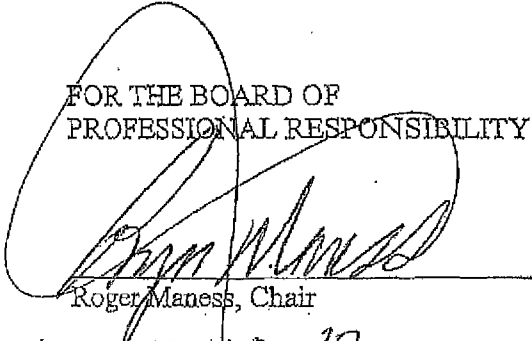
The Complainant hired the Respondent to represent her mentally ill son after he was admitted to a mental health institute on an emergency petition. The hospital petitioned the court to appoint a *guardian ad litem* for the Complainant's son, and an order was entered appointing a conservator. The Complainant wanted the Respondent to represent her son in an appeal of this decision. The Respondent filed a motion to reconsider and a notice of appeal. Thereafter, the Complainant made several attempts to contact the Respondent and inquire about the status of the matter, but the Respondent did not respond. Finally, the Complainant received a notice from the chancery court clerk's office advising her that the Court of Appeals had dismissed the appeal. The Respondent had failed to file an appellate brief. Subsequently, the chancery court entered an order denying the motion to reconsider, in which the court questioned the adequacy of the Respondent's motion under Rule of Civil Procedure 7.02. The Respondent failed to give the

Complainant notice of either court's ruling.

The Respondent violated Rule 1.4 by failing to maintain communication with the Complainant. The Respondent ignored the Complainant's requests for information and did not inform the Complainant that the Court of Appeals had dismissed the appeal or that the chancery court had denied the motion to reconsider. Also, the Respondent failed to act with reasonable diligence in violation of Rule 1.3. The Respondent did not file an appellate brief in the Court of Appeals, so the appeal was dismissed. Finally, the Respondent failed to abide by the Complainant's decision concerning the objective of the representation in violation of Rule 1.2.

By the aforementioned facts, Albert L. Watson, III, has violated Rule of Professional Conduct 1.2 (scope of representation), 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY



Roger Maness, Chair

7-12-10
Date