



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
LAWRENCE A. WELCH, JR., BPR #14684
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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December 27, 2005

GREENEVILLE ATTORNEY SUSPENDED

On December 19, 2005, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an Order suspending Lawrence A. Welch, Jr. for three (3) years.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Welch pursuant to Rule 9, Rules of Supreme Court of Tennessee. On July 8, 2003, a Hearing Panel heard the Board of Professional Responsibility's charges against Mr. Welch and recommended Mr. Welch be suspended for three (3) years. The Hearing Panel found that Welch acted unethically by soliciting and accepting a \$6,000.00 fee as payment for Welch's providing financial advice to a client which was a service Welch had little to no formal training and no professional experience. The Panel further found that Welch structured his agreement with his client so that he was entitled to keep the \$6,000.00 "retainer" whether or not Welch provided any services. Welch provided no service to the client and the client received no benefit for her \$6,000.00 payment. The Panel found that Welch's Consulting Agreement with this client was unethical and dishonest and violated Tenn. Code Ann. ¶23-3-201(5), DR 1-102(1), (4), (5), & (6) and DR 5104(A). On April 1, 2004, Mr. Welch filed a Petition of Certiorari appealing the Hearing Panel opinion. On July 22, 2005, Special Judge William H. Inman issued a memorandum affirming the Hearing Panel opinion and recommending Mr. Welch be suspended for three (3) years. On December 19, 2005, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an Order suspending Mr. Welch for three (3) years.

While suspended, Welch shall not use any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant or law clerk, nor maintain the presence for the practice of law is conducted. Section 18 of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9 requires Welch to notify all clients, all co-counsel and opposing counsel of the Supreme Court's Order suspending him. Section 18 of Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court also requires Welch to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

This disciplinary matter was held pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 8 and 9. In Tennessee, suspended lawyers may, after the passage of the suspension, apply for reinstatement of their law license. To succeed with an Application for Reinstatement of their law license, lawyers must carry their burden of proof by clear and convincing evidence and show that the reinstatement will not be detrimental to the integrity and standing of the Bar, or the administration of justice or subversive to the public interest.

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