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of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
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GREENEVILLE ATTORNEY SUSPENDED FROM PRACTICE OF LAW

Lawrence A. Welch, Jr., a Greeneville attorney, has been suspended from the practice of law in Tennessee by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered May 19, 2006. A Petition for Discipline was filed against Welch alleging Welch prepared and mailed a memorandum implicating a sitting Judge and members of a law firm in a criminal conspiracy. A Hearing Panel of the Board of Professional Responsibility found by clear and convincing evidence that Welch prepared and mailed this memorandum thereby violating the Code of Professional Responsibility. The Hearing Panel further recommended that Welch receive a three (3) year suspension for this misconduct. Welch appealed the Hearing Panel decision to the Chancery Court. The Chancery Court, with a Special Chancellor appointed to hear the appeal, affirmed the Hearing Panel recommendation that Welch be suspended for three (3) years. Welch appealed the Chancery Court Order to the Supreme Court of Tennessee. By Order filed May 19, 2006, the Supreme Court of Tennessee affirmed the Chancery Court Order and suspended Welch for three (3) years from the practice of law.

This disciplinary matter was held pursuant to Supreme Court Rules 8 and 9. In Tennessee, suspended lawyers may, after the passage of their suspension, apply for reinstatement of their law licenses. However, to succeed the 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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