



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: MELVIN JACOB WERNER, BPR #015909**  
**CONTACT: JOSEPH K. BYRD**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

December 3, 2021

**KNOX COUNTY LAWYER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED**

On December 3, 2021, the Supreme Court of Tennessee temporarily suspended Melvin Jacob Werner from the practice of law upon finding that Mr. Werner misappropriated funds of a client and poses a threat of substantial harm to the public. Section 12.3 of Supreme Court Rule 9 provides for the immediate summary suspension of an attorney's license to practice law in cases of an attorney's misappropriation of a client's funds.

Mr. Werner is immediately precluded from accepting any new cases, and he must cease representing existing clients by January 2, 2022. After January 2, 2022, Mr. Werner shall not practice law in any capacity; use any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, or law clerk; nor maintain a presence where the practice of law is conducted.

Mr. Werner must notify all clients being represented in pending matters, as well as co-counsel and opposing counsel, of the Supreme Court's Order suspending his law license. Mr. Werner is required to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

Mr. Werner must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Sections 28 and 12.3(d), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of temporarily suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

This temporary suspension remains in effect until dissolution or modification by the Supreme Court. Mr. Werner may for good cause request dissolution or modification of the temporary suspension by petition to the Supreme Court.