



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: MICHAEL LEE WEST, BPR #1868
CONTACT: A. RUSSELL WILLIS
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

March 20, 2014

HAMILTON COUNTY LAWYER TEMPORARILY SUSPENDED

On March 18, 2014, the Supreme Court of Tennessee temporarily suspended Michael Lee West from the practice of law upon finding that Mr. West misappropriated funds to his own use, and his continued practice of law poses a threat of substantial harm to the public. Section 4.3 of Supreme Court Rule 9 provides for the immediate summary suspension of an attorney's license to practice law in matters where an attorney's continued practice of law poses a threat of substantial harm to the public.

Effective March 18, 2014, Mr. West is precluded from accepting any new cases, and he must cease representing existing clients by April 17, 2014. After April 17, 2014, Mr. West shall not use any indicia of lawyer, legal assistant, or law clerk nor maintain a presence where the practice of law is conducted. Further, Mr. West must provide the location and account number for any trust accounts for which he has signatory authority or control and is enjoined from making any withdrawals from said trust accounts without advance approval of Disciplinary Counsel.

Mr. West 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. West is required to deliver to all clients any papers or property to which they are entitled.

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

West 2300-3 rel.doc

PLEASE NOTE

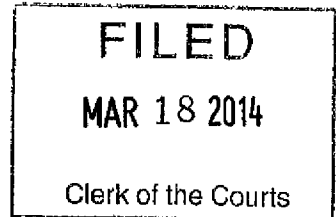
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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: MICHAEL LEE WEST, BPR #1868
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Hamilton County)

No. M2014-00387-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2014-2300-3-AW(4.3)



ORDER OF TEMPORARY SUSPENSION

This matter is before the Court on a Petition of the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Supreme Court of Tennessee ("the Board"), by and through Disciplinary Counsel, for the temporary suspension of Michael Lee West from the practice of law, pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.3.¹ The Petition has been authorized by the Chair of the Board of Professional Responsibility and is supported by the affidavits of Priscilla Harvey and Disciplinary Counsel, Kevin Balkwill.

Based upon the Petition and the supporting Affidavit, the Response filed by Mr. West on March 4, 2014, the Response in Opposition filed by the Board on March 7, 2014, and Mr. West's final Response to the Board's Response filed on March 14, 2014, the Court finds that Michael Lee West, Respondent, has misappropriated funds to his own use and his continued practice of law poses a threat of substantial harm to the public.

It is therefore, ordered, adjudged and decreed by the Court that:

1. Michael Lee West is hereby temporarily suspended from the practice of law as provided in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.3.
2. Michael Lee West, within ten (10) days of the date this Order is entered, shall provide Disciplinary Counsel with the location and bank account number of all trust accounts for which he has signatory authority or control. Mr. West shall be enjoined from making any withdrawals from said trust accounts without the advance approval of Disciplinary Counsel. This Order shall serve as an injunction on any bank maintaining a trust account for which Michael Lee West has signatory authority or control.
3. Michael Lee West shall comply with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 in all respects and particularly as provided in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.

¹Because this case was initiated prior to January 1, 2014, it is governed by the pre-2014 version of Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9.

4. Michael Lee West may make application for dissolution or modification of this Order as provided in Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.3.

5. The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this suspension of Michael Lee West to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10.

FOR THE COURT:

Cornelia A. Clark
CORNELIA A. CLARK, JUSTICE