

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

IN RE: CHRISTOPHER PAUL WESTMORELAND
BPR No. 24789
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Bedford County)

FILE NO.37255c-4-ES

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Christopher Paul Westmoreland, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on September 11, 2015.

Mr. Westmoreland was appointed to represent a client on two criminal matters which resulted in convictions. In the first matter, Mr. Westmoreland timely filed an appeal but neglected to timely file the appellate brief. Mr. Westmoreland filed a motion to accept the late-filed brief which was granted, but the Court cautioned Mr. Westmoreland about complying with the Rules of Appellate Procedure and Orders of the Court. In the client's second matter, Mr. Westmoreland neglected to timely file the notice of appeal. Several months later, Mr. Westmoreland filed a motion to accept the late-filed notice of appeal which was granted. No activity took place on the appeal for at least four months until the clerk notified Mr. Westmoreland that the record had not been received. Thereafter, the record was filed, briefs were filed, and the appeal was submitted on briefs. Mr. Westmoreland also failed to timely respond to requests for information from his client.

By the aforementioned acts, Mr. Westmoreland violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 3.2 (expediting litigation), 3.4(c) (fairness to opposing counsel), and 8.4(d) (prejudice to the administration of justice). The client suffered delays in two criminal appeals as a result of Mr. Westmoreland's actions. Mr. Westmoreland is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY


Michael King, Chair

October 15, 2015
Date