



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

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**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: CHRISTOPHER PAUL WESTMORELAND, BPR #24789**  
**CONTACT: EILEEN BURKHALTER SMITH**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

October 19, 2015

**BEDFORD COUNTY LAWYER CENSURED**

On October 15, 2015, Christopher Paul Westmoreland, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

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 these 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).

A Public Censure is a rebuke and warning to the attorney, but it does not affect the attorney's ability to practice law.

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

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PUBLIC CENSURE

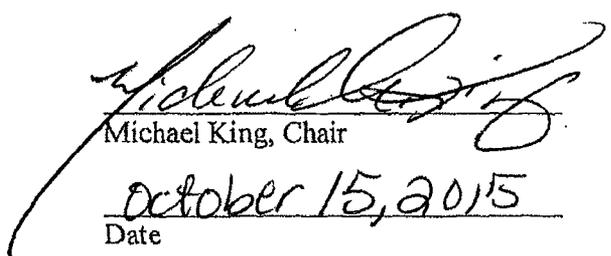
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The above complaint was filed against Christopher Paul Westmoreland, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these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