



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
WILLIAM LEE WHEATLEY, BPR #22339
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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November 18, 2011

KNOX COUNTY LAWYER REINSTATED BY SUPREME COURT

William Lee Wheatley has been reinstated to the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court entered November 15, 2011. Mr. Wheatley was temporarily suspended from the practice of law by Order of the Supreme Court on September 10, 2010, due to Mr. Wheatley's noncompliance with his Tennessee Lawyer's Assistance Program (TLAP) Monitoring Agreement. On approximately September 12, 2011, Mr. Wheatley filed a Petition for Reinstatement. On November 1, 2011, a hearing was conducted before a three-member Hearing Panel of the Board of Professional Responsibility. On November 4, 2011, the Hearing Panel entered its Order recommending that the temporary suspension be dissolved subject to conditions. The Supreme Court dissolved Mr. Wheatley's temporary suspension Order of November 15, 2011 with the following conditions: 1) the extension of his three year TLAP monitoring agreement to five years; and, 2) Mr. Wheatley's strict compliance with his monitoring agreement.

Wheatley 1972-2rel2.doc

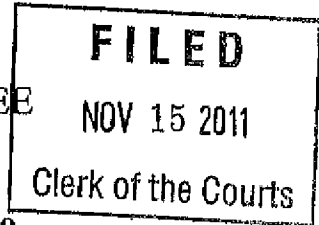
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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

WILLIAM LEE WHEATLEY, BPR #022339
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Knox County)



No. M2010-01900-SC-BPR-BP
BOPR No. 2010-1972-2-KH(4.3)

ORDER

On September 10, 2010, the Court entered an Order of Temporary Suspension suspending William Lee Wheatley pursuant to Section 4.3 of Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court due to Mr. Wheatley's noncompliance with his Tennessee Lawyer's Assistance Program (TLAP) Monitoring Agreement. On approximately September 12, 2011, Mr. Wheatley filed a Petition for Reinstatement.

On November 1, 2011, a hearing was conducted before a three-member Hearing Panel of the Board of Professional Responsibility. On November 4, 2011, the Hearing Panel entered its Order recommending that the temporary suspension be dissolved subject to conditions outlined in the Hearing Panel's Order. A copy of the Order is attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference.

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

1. The temporary suspension imposed upon William Lee Wheatley by Order of Temporary Suspension filed September 10, 2010, is hereby dissolved and William Lee Wheatley is reinstated to the practice of law subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Mr. Wheatley's three (3) year monitoring agreement with TLAP be extended to a five (5) year agreement; and
- (b) Mr. Wheatley is required to remain in strict compliance with his monitoring agreement for its duration.

2. Mr. Wheatley shall reimburse and pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the costs and expenses of this proceeding in the amount of \$200 and, in addition, shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days, for all of which execution shall issue, if necessary.

FOR THE COURT:



WILLIAM C. KOCH, JR., JUSTICE

FILED

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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: WILLIAM LEE WHEATLEY, BPR NO. 022339

BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL
RESPONSIBILITY

lew
EXEC. SEC.

An Attorney Licensed To Practice Law in Tennessee

(Knox County)

No.: M2010-01900-SC-BRP-BP

BOPR No. 2010-1972-2-KH (4.3)

REPORT AND RECOMMENDATION OF

HEARING PANEL

This matter came on to be heard on the 1st day of November, 2011, at the Historic Courthouse and Post Office, Appellate Courtroom, 2nd Floor, 585 Main Street, Knoxville, Tennessee, before a Panel consisting of Eleanor Yoakum, Member, Board of Professional Responsibility, Wade Davies, Esq., Member, Board of Professional Responsibility, and William C. Bovender, Esq., Member, Board of Professional Responsibility. Mr. Bovender served as Panel Chair.

The matter before the Panel concerned the Petition of William Lee Wheatley, seeking dissolution of an Order of Temporary Suspension issued by the Tennessee Supreme Court on September 10, 2010, pursuant to Rule 9, Section 4.3 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee.

Mr. Wheatley appeared pro se. Sandy Garrett, Senior Litigation Counsel, appeared as Disciplinary Counsel on behalf of the Board of Professional Responsibility.

Based on the documents contained in the litigation file, the Petition of Mr. Wheatley, the sworn testimony of Mr. Wheatley and his witness, Mr. Ted Rice, Deputy Director, Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program ("TLAP"), the statements and argument of Mr. Wheatley and Disciplinary Counsel Garrett, and the responses to questions posed to Mr. Wheatley and Mr. Rice, by Disciplinary Counsel Garrett and the Panel, the Panel makes the following findings:

A. FINDINGS OF FACT

Solely as to the Rule 9, Section 4.3 suspension of Petitioner Wheatley at issue in this proceeding:

1. The suspension of Petitioner Wheatley arose when Petitioner was discharged by TLAP from a TLAP Monitoring Agreement (dated July 7, 2009) because of substantial non-compliance on August 16, 2010.
2. The BPR was notified by TLAP of Petitioner's substantial non-compliance on August 16, 2010.
3. Authorization was received by Disciplinary Counsel from the Chair of the BPR to file a Petition for Temporary Suspension on September 9, 2010.
4. Petitioner was suspended by the Supreme Court by Order filed September 10, 2010.
5. Petitioner contacted TLAP to determine what would be required of him to allow him to seek a dissolution of the Order of Suspension, from TLAP's perspective.

6. TLAP advised Petitioner he needed to successfully complete an in-patient drug rehabilitation program and enter into a new monitoring agreement with TLAP and remain in strict compliance.

7. Petitioner entered the Crossroads of Hope residential rehabilitation program in Shelby, NC, on or about November 3, 2010, and completed said program to the satisfaction of TLAP in January, 2011.

8. Petitioner then entered into a new three (3) year monitoring agreement with TLAP on February 12, 2011.

9. At the Hearing, Ted Rice, Deputy Director of TLAP, confirmed Petitioner was in full compliance with the terms and conditions of said February 12, 2011 monitoring agreement.

10. Deputy Director Rice testified that should the Panel recommend to the Supreme Court that the temporary suspension be dissolved, that, in his opinion, it would be in the best interest of Petitioner that the three year monitoring agreement entered into February 11, 2011, be extended to five (5) years and that Petitioner should be required to remain in strict compliance for the five (5) year period. Petitioner agreed with Mr. Rice's recommendation.

11. Petitioner remains subject to three other suspensions -- failure to pay requisite fees, failure to meet continuing legal education requirements, and failure to respond to disciplinary complaints, none of which are the subject of this proceeding.

B. RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE PANEL

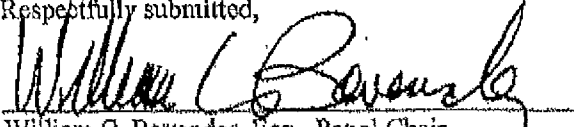
1. The Panel unanimously recommends to the Supreme Court of Tennessee that the Rule 9, Section 4.3 Suspension of Petitioner Wheatley be dissolved;

2. The Panel further recommends to the Supreme Court of Tennessee that the Rule 9, Section 4.3 Suspension of Petitioner Wheatley be dissolved on the conditions that (a) Petitioner's three (3) year monitoring agreement with TLAP be extended to a five (5) year agreement; and (b) that Petitioner be required to remain in strict compliance with said monitoring agreement for its duration.

These Recommendations are in no way related to any other suspensions Petitioner Wheatley may currently be subject to.

This the 4th day of November, 2011.

Respectfully submitted,


William C. Bovender, Esq., Panel Chair

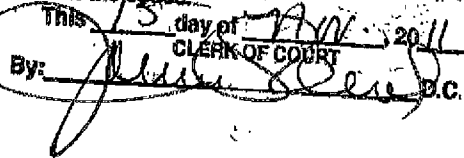

Eleanor Yoakum, Panel Member


Wade Davies, Esq., Panel Member

I, Michael W. Catalano, Clerk, hereby certify that this is a true and exact copy of the original

filed in the cause

This 15 day of Nov. 2011

By:  Clerk of Court