



**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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May 30, 2012

SEVIER COUNTY LAWYER SUSPENDED

On May 25, 2012, the Tennessee Supreme Court suspended the law license of William Lee Wheatley, a Sevier County attorney, for a period of two years, with 120 days actual suspension and the remaining twenty months probation. The Court ordered that Mr. Wheatley maintain strict compliance with his Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP) monitoring agreement, and ordered that Mr. Wheatley pay \$14,870 in restitution to former clients.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline against Mr. Wheatley, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 8.2. A Hearing Panel found Mr. Wheatley neglected clients' cases; failed to communicate with clients; accepted legal fees after being temporarily suspended; failed to repay loans from a client's father; and entered a guilty plea to misdemeanor reckless endangerment.

Mr. Wheatley's actions violated the following Rules of Professional Conduct: 1.3 (diligence); 1.4 (communication); 1.5 (fees); 1.16 (terminating representation); 3.2 (expediting litigation); 8.1 (disciplinary matters) and 8.4 (misconduct).

Mr. Wheatley was ordered to pay the expenses and costs of the disciplinary proceedings against him, pursuant to Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 24.3, and fully comply in all respects with the requirements and obligations of suspended attorneys as set forth in Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18.

Wheatley 2039-1 rel.doc

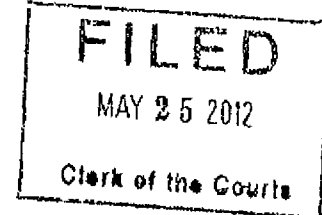
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IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

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

No. M2012-00869-SC-BPR-BP
BOPR No. 2012-3039-1-SG



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed on April 21, 2011 by the Board of Professional Responsibility ("Board") against William Lee Wheatley in Docket No. 2011-2039-1-SG; upon the Board's Motion for Default Judgment filed May 27, 2011; upon the Hearing Panel's Order granting the Board's Motion for Default Judgment filed July 19, 2011; upon the Hearing Panel's Order granting Respondent leave to late file Answer filed August 25, 2011; upon Mr. Wheatley's Answer filed August 25, 2011; upon Mr. Wheatley's Motion to Set Aside Default Judgment filed September 6, 2011; upon the Board's Response to Motion to Set Aside Judgment filed September 8, 2011; upon the Hearing Panel's Order Setting Aside Default Judgment filed September 13, 2011; upon the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Recommendation of the Hearing Panel entered March 26, 2012; upon service of the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and Recommendation of the Hearing panel by the Board on March 26, 2012; upon the Board's consideration and approval of the Hearing Panel's Recommendation on March 30, 2012; upon Mr. Wheatley's email reflecting he would not appeal dated April 23, 2012; and upon the entire record in this cause.

From all of which the Court approves the Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law and recommendation of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Recommendations of the Hearing Panel as the Court's Order.

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

1. William Lee Wheatley is suspended from the practice of law for a period of two years with 120 days actual suspension and the remaining twenty months probation; Mr. Wheatley shall maintain strict compliance with his Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program (TLAP) Monitoring Agreement and shall pay \$14,870 in restitution pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.2 and 4.7.
2. The suspension shall become effective ten (10) days after the filing of this Order.
3. Mr. Wheatley shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18 and 19 regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.
4. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3, Mr. Wheatley shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$4,080.44 and, in addition, shall pay to the Clerk of this Court the costs incurred herein, within ninety (90) days of the entry of this Order, for all of which execution may issue if necessary.
5. The Board shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10.

FOR THE COURT



WILLIAM C. KOCH, JR., JUSTICE