



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: HAL WILKES WILKINS, BPR #17830
CONTACT: ALAN JOHNSON
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

January 29, 2015

DAVIDSON COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED

On January 28, 2015, Hal Wilkes Wilkins, of Nashville, Tennessee, was disbarred from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. Mr. Wilkins was previously disbarred in another case on July 22, 2014. Mr. Wilkins was ordered to pay restitution to a former client, or to the Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection, if appropriate, in the amount of \$17,990.00. Finally, Mr. Wilkins must pay the Board's costs and expenses.

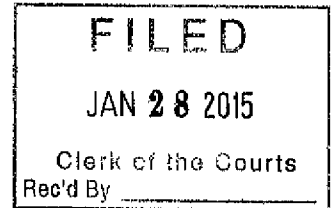
A Petition for Discipline was filed on July 3, 2014, that included three (3) complaints of misconduct. In one case, Mr. Wilkins informed his client that he had reached a settlement, but ceased communicating with the client thereafter. His client retained another lawyer to complete the settlement on her behalf. In another case, Mr. Wilkins agreed to represent his client on a contingency fee basis and did not enter into a written fee agreement. After he filed the complaint, he ceased communicating with the client. In the third case, Mr. Wilkins settled a personal injury case on behalf of his client in the amount of \$30,000.00. He tendered a check to his client in the amount of \$12,100.00, and told her that he would use the remainder to pay her medical bills and his fee. He did not provide his client with a settlement sheet and failed to pay the subrogation claims. In all three cases, Mr. Wilkins abandoned his clients and did not inform them that he had been temporarily suspended from the practice of law on December 2, 2013.

Mr. Wilkins' actions violated RPC 1.3 (diligence), 1.4 (communication), 1.5 (fees), 1.15 (safekeeping property), 1.16(d) (declining or terminating representation), and 8.1(b) (bar admission and disciplinary matters). By failing to notify his client, opposing counsel and the court of his temporary suspension, Mr. Wilkins violated Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18 (2006). Mr. Wilkins must comply with the requirements of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18 (2006) and Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 30.4 (2014), regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys.

IN THE SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE
AT NASHVILLE

IN RE: HAL WILKES WILKINS, BPR #17830
An Attorney Licensed to Practice Law in Tennessee
(Davidson County)

No. M2015-00118-SC-BAR-BP
BOPR No. 2014-2335-5-AJ



ORDER OF ENFORCEMENT

This matter is before the Court upon a Petition for Discipline filed against Hal Wilkes Wilkins on July 3, 2014; upon Motion for Default and that Allegations Contained in the Petition for Discipline be Deemed Admitted filed on August 26, 2014; upon Order of Default entered on September 23, 2014; upon the Judgment of the Hearing Panel entered on October 23, 2014; upon service of the Judgment of the Hearing Panel on Mr. Wilkins by the Executive Secretary of the Board on October 23, 2014; upon consideration and approval by the Board on December 12, 2014; upon expiration of the appeal period with no appeal taken; and upon the entire record in this cause.¹

From all of which the Court approves the Order of the Hearing Panel and adopts the Hearing Panel's Judgment as the Court's Order.

On July 22, 2014, Mr. Wilkins was disbarred by this Court pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.1 (2006) and Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.1 (2014) (Case No. M2014-01300-SC-BAR-BP).

IT IS, THEREFORE, CONSIDERED, ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED BY THE COURT THAT:

(1) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.1 (2006) and Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 12.1 (2014), Hal Wilkes Wilkins is disbarred from the practice of law retroactive to July 22, 2014.

¹Because this cause was initiated prior to January 1, 2014, it is governed by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9 (2006) except as otherwise noted.

(2) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 4.7, and as a condition precedent to any reinstatement, Mr. Wilkins shall make restitution to Claudia Velazquez in the amount of \$17,990.00. In the event restitution is made by the Tennessee Lawyer's Fund for Client Protection (TLFCP), Mr. Wilkins shall reimburse TLFCP in the same amount.

(3) Additionally, Mr. Wilkins shall comply in all aspects with Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18 (2006) and Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 30.4 (2014) regarding the obligations and responsibilities of disbarred attorneys and the procedure for reinstatement.

(4) Prior to seeking reinstatement, Mr. Wilkins must meet all CLE requirements and pay any outstanding registration fees including those due from the date of disbarment to reinstatement.

(5) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.5 (2006), this Order shall be effective ten (10) days after the date of entry.

(6) Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 24.3 (2006), Mr. Wilkins shall pay to the Board of Professional Responsibility the expenses and costs of this matter in the amount of \$903.13 and 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.

(7) The Board of Professional Responsibility shall cause notice of this discipline to be published as required by Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, § 18.10 (2006).

PER CURIAM