



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: TIMOTHY JOEL WILLIAMS, BPR #10159
CONTACT: KEVIN D. BALKWILL
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

April 11, 2018

MEMPHIS LAWYER CENSURED

On April 10, 2018, Timothy Joel Williams, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

Mr. Williams represented a client in a municipal court in Mississippi without receiving permission to appear *pro hac vice* and further represented the client in a Mississippi Circuit Court case without fully complying with the Mississippi *pro hac vice* rules. Mr. Williams associated a Mississippi attorney to assist in the case, but did not inform his client of the associated attorney's participation in the case until after the case had been transferred to Circuit Court. Mr. Williams also claimed that his fee was non-refundable but he did not have a written fee agreement signed by his client.

By these acts, Timothy Joel Williams has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4 (communication), 1.5(f) (fees), 3.4(c) (knowingly disobeying an obligation under rules of a tribunal), 5.5(a) (unauthorized practice of law), and 8.4(a)(d) (misconduct) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations. As a condition of the Public Censure, Mr. Williams is required to refund \$2,500.00 in fees to his former client.

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

Williams 51883-9 rel.doc

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

IN RE: Timothy Joel Williams, Respondent,
BPR No. 10159, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Shelby County)

File No. 51883-9-KB

PUBLIC CENSURE


The above complaint was filed against Timothy Joel Williams, 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 this matter at its meeting on March 9, 2018.

Mr. Williams represented a client in a municipal court in Mississippi without receiving permission to appear *pro hac vice* and further represented the client in a Mississippi Circuit Court case without fully complying with the Mississippi *pro hac vice* rules. Mr. Williams associated a Mississippi attorney to assist in the case, but did not inform his client of the associated attorney's participation in the case until after the case had been transferred to Circuit Court. Mr. Williams also claimed that his fee was non-refundable but he did not have a written fee agreement signed by his client.

By these acts, Timothy Joel Williams has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4 (communication), 1.5(f) (fees), 3.4(c) (knowingly disobeying obligation under rules of a tribunal),

5.5(a) (unauthorized practice of law), and 8.4(a)(d) (misconduct), and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations. Additionally, as a condition of the Public Censure, Mr. Williams shall refund \$2,500.00 in fees to Debra Randolph within six (6) months of issuance of this Public Censure.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY


Jimmie Miller, Chair

4-10-18

Date