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

IN RE: MATTHEW WAYNE WILLIS, BPR NO. 024803
Respondent, an attorney licensed
to practice law in Tennessee
(Dyer County)

FILE NO.
101606-2025-8-MH-INV

PUBLIC CENSURE

The above complaint was filed against Matthew Wayne Willis, #024803, an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, alleging certain acts of misconduct, after Mr. Willis self-reported his conduct to the Board of Professional Responsibility. Pursuant to Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, the Board of Professional Responsibility considered these matters at its meeting on March 13, 2026.

Mr. Willis was representing a client before the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals. Mr. Willis personally used Artificial Intelligence (AI) to aid him in the preparation of a reply brief he filed with the Armed Services Board of Contract Appeals. The Court found that after reviewing the reply brief, over seventy percent of the citations were fictitious and Mr. Willis took no action to check the accuracy of these citations. Mr. Willis stated that he believed a paralegal in his office performed a full citation check including verifying references to the technical record, transcript, and legal authorities. Mr. Willis failed to verify that his paralegal checked the citations before filing the reply brief.

Mr. Willis failed to act with diligence and his conduct was prejudicial to the administration of justice. Additionally, Mr. Willis failed to exercise managerial authority over his paralegal.

By these acts, Mr. Willis has violated Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 (diligence), 5.3 (responsibilities regarding nonlawyer assistants), and 8.4 (misconduct) and is hereby Publicly Censured for these violations.

FOR THE BOARD OF
PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

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R. Culver Schmid, Chair

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Date