



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

1101 KERMIT DRIVE, SUITE 730  
NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE 37217  
TELEPHONE: (615) 361-7500  
(800) 486-5714  
FAX: (615) 367-2480  
E-MAIL: [ethics@tbpr.org](mailto:ethics@tbpr.org)  
Website: [www.tbpr.org](http://www.tbpr.org)

**RELEASE OF INFORMATION**  
**RE: JAMES A. H. BELL, BPR# 775**  
**CONTACT: RACHEL L. WATERHOUSE**  
**BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY**  
**615-361-7500**

March 5, 2010

**KNOXVILLE LAWYER CENSURED**

On March 4, 2010, James A. H. Bell, a Tennessee attorney, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

On August 13, 2009, U. S. Magistrate Judge Clifford Shirley, Jr., U. S. District Court, Eastern District of Tennessee, found Mr. Bell in criminal contempt beyond a reasonable doubt for misrepresentations made with the intent to obstruct the business of the court and the administration of justice. The Court held that Mr. Bell had intentionally, willfully and knowingly made misrepresentations about a meeting with a person who later was a co-defendant in a criminal case in which Mr. Bell represented another co-defendant. The Court specifically found that the misrepresentations were not honest mistakes based on a flawed memory or mistaken belief. The Court fined Mr. Bell the maximum of \$5,000 and stated that “[T]his occurrence appears to be a one-time blemish on an otherwise lengthy and commendable record of legal representation.” Mr. Bell self-reported the Court’s decision to the Board.

Mr. Bell’s actions violated Rules of Professional Conduct 3.3(a) (false statement) and 8.4(d) (conduct prejudicial to the administration of justice) and is hereby Publicly Censured for those violations.

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

Bell 32472-2 rel.doc

**PLEASE NOTE**  
**YOU MAY SUBSCRIBE TO RECEIVE INFORMATIONAL RELEASES, FORMAL ETHICS**  
**OPINIONS, NEWSLETTERS AND ANNUAL REPORTS ELECTRONICALLY BY SIGNING IN AT**  
**THE BOARD’S WEBSITE**

**[www.tbpr.org/Subscriptions](http://www.tbpr.org/Subscriptions)**