

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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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July 15, 2009

OAK RIDGE LAWYER SUSPENDED

On July 8, 2009, Debra Fannin Graham, of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, was suspended for six (6) months, placed on probation for one (1) year to be served concurrent with the six (6) month suspension, and ordered to pay restitution to four (4) clients totaling \$5,017.15, by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed a Petition for Discipline and three (3) Supplemental Petitions for Discipline against Debra Fannin Graham pursuant to Rule 9 of the Rules of the Supreme Court of Tennessee. The Board of Professional Responsibility alleged that Ms. Graham failed to act with reasonable diligence in representing clients; failed to communicate with clients; made misrepresentations to a client and about clients' cases and retained excessive fees.

After a full hearing, a Hearing Panel recommended Ms. Graham be suspended for six (6) months; placed on probation for one (1) year; complete nine (9) hours of continuing legal education in ethics, and pay four (4) clients \$5,017.15 in restitution. Ms. Graham appealed the Hearing Panel's recommendation to the Chancery Court of Anderson County. The Chancery Court dismissed Ms. Graham's appeal and Ms. Graham appealed to the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court dismissed Ms. Graham's appeal.

Ms. Graham must comply with Section 18 of Rule 9, Rules of the Supreme Court, regarding the obligations and responsibilities of suspended attorneys

Graham 1547-2 rel.doc

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