



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

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: STEVEN E. SAMS, BPR #22560
CONTACT: ALAN JOHNSON
BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
615-361-7500

August 8, 2016

KNOX COUNTY LAWYER DISBARRED

On August 5, 2016, Steven E. Sams of Knoxville, Tennessee, was disbarred from the practice of law by Order of the Tennessee Supreme Court. Mr. Sams must pay the Board's costs and expenses.

A Petition for Discipline was filed on November 18, 2015, that included one (1) complaint of misconduct. On September 12, 2013, Mr. Sams was temporarily suspended from the practice of law for failing to respond in an unrelated ethics complaint. Following his temporary suspension, Mr. Sams contacted the surviving heirs of a deceased acquaintance, represented to them that he was an attorney licensed to practice law in Tennessee, and offered to serve as the administrator of their mother's estate. Mr. Sams sent the heirs a letter with "Sams Law Firm, PLLC" on the letterhead, and included declinations for the heirs to sign, which stated: "I hereby nominate Attorney Steven E. Sams to serve as Personal Representative." Mr. Sams filed a petition to open the estate that included the declinations and pleadings that represented that his employer was Sams Law Firm, PLLC.

Mr. Sams' ethical misconduct violated Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, Section 18.7 (2006), new representation prohibited after suspension, and Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4, communication, 3.3, candor toward the tribunal, 5.5 (b), unauthorized practice of law, 7.1, communication concerning legal services, 7.5, firm letterheads, 8.1, failing to respond, and 8.4 (a) and (g), misconduct.