



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY

of the

SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION

RE: WILLIAM EUGENE JESSUP, BPR NO. 9194

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March 4, 2005

FORMER CHATTANOOGA LAWYER CENSURED

William Eugene Jessup, formerly a Chattanooga attorney, received a Public Censure from the Board of Professional Responsibility on March 4, 2005, for charging a client an excessive fee. Mr. Jessup was engaged in 1996 to enroll a foreign judgment and sue his client's ex-husband for contempt. The case was highly contested. Mr. Jessup was successful in obtaining judgment on behalf of his client. Mr. Jessup charged a fee of in excess of \$41,000.00 for time and expenses expended on the case, of which Mr. Jessup had been paid \$17,418.00. On May 18, 1998, Mr. Jessup filed suit against the client for the balance of his fees. The client filed a counter-claim against Mr. Jessup claiming that Mr. Jessup had charged a clearly excessive fee for that type of case. The case was tried before a jury on September 25, 2001, and the jury found that Mr. Jessup attempted to collect a clearly excessive fee. Judgment was awarded against Mr. Jessup on October 17, 2001. The Court of Appeals affirmed the trial court by opinion filed November 29, 2004. Mr. Jessup's conduct violated DR 2-106(A).

A Public Censure is a form of public discipline which declares the conduct of the lawyer improper but does not limit the lawyer's right to practice.