



BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
of the
SUPREME COURT OF TENNESSEE

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RELEASE OF INFORMATION
RE: LOUIS W. RINGGER, JR, BPR #6559
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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL RESPONSIBILITY
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October 9, 2002

LAW LICENSE OF DECATURVILLE ATTORNEY SUSPENDED

On October 2, 2002, the Supreme Court of Tennessee entered an Order suspending the law license of Louis W. Ringger, Jr., for a period of fourteen months, retroactive to Mr. Ringger's temporary suspension on May 8, 2001.

The Board of Professional Responsibility filed petitions for discipline against Ringger charging Ringger with preparing an inaccurate contract, deed, and sale agreement for a closing; misadvising parties at the closing regarding tax claims, failure to pay off tax liens from the proceeds of the closing, failure to disclose the existence of liens prior to the closing, failure to make a complete accounting, and misappropriation of trust funds held by the respondent after the closing. In another petition for discipline filed by the Board against Ringger, the Board charged Ringger with being found in willful contempt by the Court of Criminal Appeals in two separate cases for failing to file briefs, failing to file motions for extension of time or permission to late file briefs and failing to otherwise contact the Court concerning the status of the matter. Ringger also failed in both cases to respond to the Court of Criminal Appeals' orders resulting in show cause orders being issued by the Court of Criminal Appeals against Ringger. The Board also charged Ringger with failing to respond to Ringger's client's request for information regarding one of these criminal appeals.

Ringger through counsel submitted a guilty plea admitting his violations of the Disciplinary Rules and agreeing to a fourteen month suspension, retroactive to Ringger's temporary suspension on May 8, 2001. The Hearing Panel, the Board of Professional Responsibility and the Tennessee Supreme Court approved Ringger's guilty plea which imposed a fourteen months suspension retroactive to Ringger's temporary suspension on May 8, 2001; required Ringger to have a trust account monitor and practice monitor, approved by Disciplinary Counsel, who shall make monthly reports to the Board for a period of two years

regarding Ringger's compliance with the Code of Professional Responsibility and

Extended Ringger's current Tennessee Lawyers Assistance Program contract for an additional five years.

Ringger may apply for reinstatement of his law license. To be reinstated, Ringger must show by clear and convincing evidence that his reinstatement will not be detrimental to the integrity and standing of the bar or the administration of justice or subversive to the public interest.

SG:mw

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