ADM2024-00922

From:

Hedrick, Judge Andra (STC) < AndraHedrick@jisnashville.gov>

Sent:

Tuesday, July 2, 2024 3:24 PM

To:

appellatecourtclerk@tncourts.gov appellatecourtclerk; appellatecourtclerk

Subject:

No. ADM2024-00922

To the Honorable Justices of the Tennessee Supreme Court:

FILED

I am writing to express my concerns regarding the Petition filed in the above referenced matter by the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility. My understanding is that the Petition requests that the Court amend Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, Section 10.1. The amendment would make non-public the contact information for attorneys who have failed to provide an office address which is different from a personal address. The amendment does not appear to provide an exception allowing the courts and clerks to be given access to the non-public contact information. This creates an undue burden on the courts and clerks and puts litigants at risk, for the reasons explained below.

I preside over the Davidson County Probate Court. It is a high volume court, with between 2,400 and 2,500 new cases filed each year and approximately 5,000 pending cases that we are charged to oversee. We have an estimated 500 or more different attorneys who file petitions in our court. While some come from firms, many are sole practitioners who may or may not maintain an office separate from their homes.

When an attorney enters an appearance for a petitioner in probate court, the attorney has continuing obligations so long as the case remains open or until an order is signed allowing the attorney to withdraw. These obligations can involve requiring the petitioner to become bonded as a fiduciary, and to file various types of financial and status reports for transparency to the court, other parties and interested persons. The obligations affect more than just the interests of the petitioner. They affect the interests of the many other potential parties and interested persons in the case (heirs, beneficiaries, respondents, contestants and creditors), many of whom typically are not represented by separate counsel.

Far too many of our attorneys do not meet the obligations required of them as counsel of record. All too often, we become aware of cases in which required filings have not been made and the attorney of record has failed to address the delinquency. Our clerk tracks these required filings and issues notices and citations accordingly. Ultimately, if the clerk's warnings are ignored the court must issue "show cause" notices and conduct "show cause" hearings to determine the next appropriate action. Attorneys of record may fail to respond and/or to attend required "show cause" hearings. Mailings to attorneys may be returned undelivered because the attorney has changed addresses but failed to notify the court or clerk. In this situation, our staff and/or the clerk must attempt to locate a new, accurate address (or other contact information) for the attorney. The public information on the website of the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility can be a helpful, reliable source of finding new addresses for attorneys so that the clerk's notices and court orders can be sent to them at the correct address. If such information is made non-public, without an exception permitting disclosure to court clerks and staff, this will hinder our court's ability to enforce the obligations of attorneys and protect the parties and interested persons in our cases from preventable harm.

All of that being said, my concerns would be greatly alleviated if the rule as amended would include an exception whereby the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility could release the otherwise non-public information to court staff and clerks upon their written request. This would achieve the safety objectives of the amendment without unduly burdening the courts and clerks who many need the information for legitimate purposes - the orderly administration of cases and protection of parties and interested persons whose interests are affected in pending cases.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns and suggestions.

Andra

Judge Andra Hedrick Seventh Circuit (Probate) Court Davidson County Courthouse, Suite 608

Judicial Assistant: Kitty Lammers (kittylammers@jisnashville.gov or 615.862.5990)

From:

Looney, Kim H. <Kim.Looney@klgates.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, July 2, 2024 2:25 PM

To:

'appellatecourtclerk@tncourts.gov' appellatecourtclerk; appellatecourtclerk

Subject:

contact information

Personal information should always be designated as confidential.



Kim Harvey Looney

www.klgates.com

Partner
K&L Gates LLP
501 Commerce Street
Suite 1500
Nashville, Tennessee 37203
Direct: (615) 780-6727
Mobile: (615) 812-4039
kim.looney@klgates.com

FILED

JUL - 2 2024

Clerk of the Appellate Courts REc'd By _____

ADU2024-00922

From:

Jamie Herman <jherman@jhermanattorney.com>

Sent:

Tuesday, July 2, 2024 4:19 PM

To:

appellatecourtclerk@tncourts.gov appellatecourtclerk; appellatecourtclerk

Subject:

Confidentiality of personal attorney information

2 July 2024 5:15 eastern

I support withholding personal information as confidential.

I used to do contested divorces.

There were a few cases where I always checked to make sure that I was not followed home.

It makes no sense to me to have our home addresses available.

Jamie L. Herman Attorney 409 E. Watauga Avenue Johnson City, Tennessee 37601

phone: 423-928-5480 fax: 423-928-5480

BOPR 9186

FILED

JUL - 2 2024

Clerk of the Appellate Courts

REC'd By

ADM 2024-00922



June 27, 2024

FILED

JUN 27 2024

Clerk of the Appellate Courts

REC'd By MOL

ADM 2024-00714

Knoxville Bar Association 505 Main Street, Suite 50 P.O. Box 2027 Knoxville, TN 37901-2027 PH: (865) 522-6522

www.knoxbar.org

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Executive Director Tasha C. Blakney

General Counsel Adrienne L. Anderson By Email: appellatecourtelerk@incourts.gov

James Hivner, Clerk of Appellate Courts Tennessee Supreme Court 100 Supreme Court Building 401 Seventh Avenue North Nashville, TN 37219-1407

RE: No. ADM2024-00714

Dear Mr. Hivner:

Pursuant to the Tennessee Supreme Court's Order referenced above, the Knoxville Bar Association ("KBA") Professionalism Committee ("Committee") carefully considered the ADRC's petition for an amendment to Rule 31(15)(a)(5) of the Rules of the Tennessee Supreme Court. The Committee presented a report with its recommendation on the requested amendment at the June 26, 2024 meeting of the KBA Board of Governors (the "KBA Board").

After consideration, the KBA Board submits the following comments

The KBA supports giving discretion to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission. The KBA suggests, however, that the proposed language be amended so it is not limited to lapses caused by a failure to timely complete CME requirements. Instead, in the KBA's view, the amended language should also give discretion to the Alternative Dispute Resolution Commission to grant a training waiver upon appropriate application for those whose credentials have lapsed for failure to comply with CME requirements pursuant to Rule 31(15)(a), for failure to timely renew under Rule 31(15)(b), or for any other reason deemed sufficient by the Commission.

This further amendment would be consistent with the ADRC's petition. At least one of the examples discussed in the petition appears to involve a lapse based on a failure to timely renew, not a failure to comply with CME requirements.

As always, the KBA appreciates the invitation to consider and comment on proposed rule changes.

Knoxville Bar Association

Comment re: No. ADM2024-00227

Page 2

Sincerely,

Carlos A. Yunsan, President

Knoxville Bar Association

cc: Tasha C, Blakney, KBA Executive Director (via email)

Executive Committee of the Knoxville Bar Association (via email)

W/peron ses

Hon. John F. Weaver and James R. Stovall, Professionalism

Committee Co- Chairs (via email)

From:

Martha Emeson < martha@zendylaw.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 27, 2024 3:12 PM

To:

appellatecourtclerk@tncourts.gov appellatecourtclerk; appellatecourtclerk

Subject:

Comment re: Petition to Amend TN S Ct R 9, Sect. 10.1

Dear Mr. Hivner, Clerk:

Re: Petition to Amend Tenn. R. Sup. Ct. R 9, Section 10.1

No. ADM2024-00922

FILED

JUN 27 2024

Clerk of the Appellate Courts

REC'd By W3

I am writing in support of the proposed amendment to Rule 9, Section 10.1!

On more than one occasion I have found my home address published (without my prior knowledge or permission) as my law practice business address. Making attorneys' personal addresses and contact information confidential will help bring a stop to this.

Thank you!

Martha Zendlovitz Emeson Attorney at Law 4235 Hillsboro Pike, Suite 300 Nashville, TN 37215

Tel.: 615-403-3205 Fax: 615-369-8653

E-mail: martha@zendylaw.com

FILED

ADM 2024-00922

REc'd By

JUN 27 2024

Clerk of the Appellate Courts

From:

Melinda Kirkham < mkirkham@mwzmlaw.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 27, 2024 4:30 PM

To:

appellatecourtclerk@tncourts.gov appellatecourtclerk; appellatecourtclerk

Subject:

No. ADM2024-00922

Good afternoon,

I am in support of the petition to make the contact information of attorneys private. I personally have received threats relating to my work. I feel this will help with safety and make it harder for those with inimical intentions to get private information.

Thank you,

Melinda Kirkham, Esq. Associate Attorney, Foreclosure

Mackie Wolf Zientz and Mann, P.C.

Cool Springs Commons 7100 Commerce Way, #273 Brentwood, TN 37027 Main Line: 615-238-3630

Fax: 615-777-4517



MACKIE WOLF ZIENTZ MANN

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FILED JUN 27 2024

REc'd By

From:

Brennan Parrish

 brennan@gilparrishlaw.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 27, 2024 8:42 AM

To:

appellatecourtclerk@tncourts.gov appellatecourtclerk; appellatecourtclerk

Subject:

In Re Docket No. ADM2024-00922 (Petition to Amend Tenn. Sup. Ct. R. 9, Section 10.1)

To whom it may concern,

I support this amendment. On numerous occasions I have had opposing parties, some who were even represented by counsel, reach out to my personal cell phone number through having this information accessible. Often this was at non-business hours.

I have received death threats from opposing parties in some cases, and I know many other lawyers who have as well. Personal residence information needs to be private. It is prudent given the potential for highly emotional reactions of opposing parties in tough cases. We live in a volatile, unpredictable world. This amendment is well needed to protect the members of the legal profession.

Last – I am a young attorney (licensed 2019). When I applied to take the Bar Exam the Board naturally requested all my personal information. It was never disclosed or noted in the application that the personal information I provided would ultimately be the same information that would sent to the general register for all Tennessee attorney's contact information. Hence, the Board asks for my personal phone number – I naturally provide it because I need to take the bar exam – and then a few months later my personal cell phone number gets published on the Tennessee Bar Attorney Contact information as my primary contact (which it is not - our office number is my primary contact). Implementation of the amendment to this rule needs to ensure it protects newly added members to the Bar from inadvertently having their information published.

I hope this input is helpful. Feel free to contact me if further input is needed.

All the best,

Brennan E. Parrish, Esq. Parrish Law, PLLC 60 Brazelton Street, Unit 9 Savannah, TN 38372 731-925-1966

From:

Chip Dawson <chip@charlesdawsonlaw.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 27, 2024 11:14 AM

To:

Subject:

appellatecourtclerk ADM2024-00922 FILED
JUN 27 2024
Clerk of the Appellate Courts

REc'd By_

I would like to add my support for the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility's Petition in this matter. Tragic events of recent years have highlighted the need for protection of the privacy of judges, attorneys and their families. Amending the Rule as proposed will allow a measure of assurance that the most invasive (and potentially dangerous) interactions with the public may be reduced.

Thanks.

Chip Dawson Attorney Law Office of Charles C. Dawson, Jr., LLC 2105 Old Montgomery Highway, Suite 206, Pelham, AL 35124

t: (855)516-3132 f: (888)316-6313 m: (205)516-3132

m: (205)516-3132 w: charlesdawsonlaw.com

e: chip@charlesdawsonlaw.com



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From: Charles Byrd <cbyrd@cbyrdslaw.com>
Sent: Thursday, June 27, 2024 11:15 AM

To: appellatecourtclerk@tncourts.gov appellatecourtclerk; appellatecourtclerk

Subject: Proposal to Make Attorney Contact Information Private

Mr. Hivner,

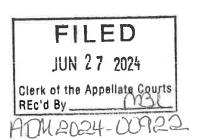
I just read about the above proposal to amend Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, section 10.1 in the TBA Today. There was no docket number provided. Please show me as being in support of the amendment.

Sincerely yours,

Charles H. Byrd, Sr.

Attorney at Law





P.S. If you know someone needing a real estate closing attorney, please refer them to us. We take pride in taking the stress out of closings!

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North Office* 518 Carriage House Drive Jackson, TN 38305 (731) 660-1577, Extension 102 (731) 660-1588 Facsimile

public accountant or his/her tax preparer.

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From:

Doni Porteous <doni.porteous@gmail.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, June 26, 2024 7:04 PM

To:

appellatecourtclerk

Subject:

IN RE: PETITION TO AMEND TENN. SUP. CT. R. 9, SECTION 10.1

FILED

JUN 26 2024

Clerk of the Appellate Courts

ADM2024-00922

Feedback: I fully support the petition to keep personal attorney information protected. I maintain the expense of a post office box specifically so there is no chance my residential address becomes viewable.

Additionally, many attorneys work now from their residences which was not the norm when the present rule was originally drafted. Thank you.

—Doni Porteous BPR 038736

From:

Erika Roberts < ErikaR@svmic.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 27, 2024 10:10 AM

To:

appellatecourtclerk@tncourts.gov appellatecourtclerk; appellatecourtclerk

Subject:

Comment regarding confidentiality of contact information

FILED

JUN 27 2024

ADM2024-00922

Clerk of the Appellate Courts REc'd By

May it please the Court:

I am writing to express my support for amending the rules so that attorney contact information is confidential and not publicly available (at least not readily so).

I support a listing featuring the attorney's name and the status of the attorney's license. And perhaps, for good cause shown, the Court could construst a method to disclose such information to a party, if merited. I can also see an option allowing attorneys to opt in to sharing their public address, but not requiring it. However, given increasing cyber security issues and what seems to be an increase in violence/anger towards the legal/judicial system and its participants, it seems prudent to shield this valuable and vulnerable information from the public, at least online. I can also imagine in situations involving domestic violence or other similarly dangerous situations, an attorney, though bound by the rules to keep his/her information current with the Board, may choose not to do so out of fear for personal safety.

Currently, I have my work address posted, but there have been times in the past where I was self-employed and my home address was posted. Due to the sensitive nature of my job, and the potential for angry plaintiffs or insureds, my own company does not even post my name or bio online. Yet the board's website does. While I have never been comfortable with that information being so readily available, it did not seem like there is an alternative. There should be.

I understand that there are various ways that a person could obtain potential contact information for a lawyer, but I feel that the Board should not be an unwitting accomplice in providing accurate contact information to someone who may intend harm to an attorney.

Thank you for your time, Erika Roberts



Erika D. Roberts, JD SVMIC | Claims Attorney

OFFICE 615-846-8362 5005 Maryland Way | Suite 300 | Brentwood, TN | 37027 ONLINE SVMIC.com

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From: Greg Atwood <gregatwoodlaw@gmail.com>

Sent: Wednesday, June 26, 2024 5:52 PM

To: appellatecourtclerk

Subject: PETITION TO AMEND TENN. SUP. CT. R. 9, SECTION 10.1

FILED

JUN 2 6 2024

I am in support of the proposed change. My practice is 95%+ working for other lawyers making court appearances, and I have no need for a public office. I maintain a mailbox at a local UPS store for the sole purpose of not having my home address be public information. This will make my practice more efficient and reduce costs.

Greg Atwood, Esq. 8161 Highway 100, #104 Nashville, TN 37221 615-347-5095 615-866-5922 fax gregatwoodlaw@gmail.com

From:

Miles Terry <milesterry82@gmail.com> Wednesday, June 26, 2024 8:52 PM

Sent: To:

appellatecourtclerk

Subject:

Re: Court Order No. ADM2024-00922

FILED

JUN 26 2024

Clerk of the Appellate Courts REC'd By

Regarding the request for Comments Sought on Proposal to Make Attorney Contact Information Private, if Judges and Court Administrators' personal information is currently private, then this should extend to attorneys as well as they too are officers of the court and have personal lives, property, and loved ones that should be protected. Privacy increases the safety and security of attorneys and I very much recommend that this information be made private.

Miles Terry | Managing Partner

Gideon Law Group, LLC, Churches | Nonprofits | Private Schools

Mailing | 1718 General George Patton Drive | Brentwood, Tennessee 37027

Contact | Office 864.569.9344 | Fax 770-234-6745

Website | gideonlawgroup.com

*Admitted in South Carolina, Tennessee, and the District of Columbia

From:

The Hill Law Firm <office@hillfirmlaw.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 27, 2024 9:47 AM

To: Subject: appellatecourtclerk ADM2024-00922

FILED

JUN 27 2024

Clerk of the Appellate Courts REc'd By

Good morning!

With regard to this recent order, I sincerely hope that the Tennessee Supreme Court does enter an order to amend the rule to classify as confidential and not public record the personal addresses and contact information Tennessee attorneys provide to the board. Cell phones and other forms of "instant" communications have increased expectations to the point that everyone is expected to be instantly available to everyone else. I believe that lawyers, like doctors and other professionals, need to have some reasonable measure of privacy and protection of the sanctity of their homes. Please contact me if you have any questions. Thanks!

-Rob Hill

The Hill Firm PLLC | PO Box 150529 | Nashville, TN 37215 | 615-815-1758 | www.HillFirmLaw.com

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Clark	of the	Annellate	Courts

From:

rob robvandiver.com < rob@robvandiver.com>

Sent:

Wednesday, June 26, 2024 5:54 PM

To:

Subject:

appellatecourtclerk@tncourts.gov appellatecourtclerk; appellatecourtclerk ADM2024-00922, Supreme Court Rule 9, section 10.1 proposed amendment

Dear Clerk Hivner,

I am writing in support of the proposed amendment that would make the personal contact information of attorneys confidential and not publicly available. While I have never personally had someone contact me at my personal residence or home phone, I have always been concerned that someone with bad intent would have such easy access to this information.

I practice in the field of consumer bankruptcy. I have had, during the last 25 years, something like 10,000 clients. That is a large number. Due to the nature of my practice, I enjoy a good relationship with my clients in an environment in which I am helping them get free from debt. However, in dealing with that many people from all walks of life, eventually someone could get upset and "track me down" at my house.

Thank you for your consideration,

Rob Vandiver

Robert B. Vandiver, Jr. | Attorney

ROBERT B. VANDIVER, JR.

Attorney at Law

Certified Consumer Bankruptcy Specialist

227 W. Baltimore St. | Jackson, TN 38301

Post Office Box 906 | Jackson, TN 38302-0906

Telephone (731) 554-1313 | Fax (731) 554-2354

Website www.robvandiver.com

Mr. Vandiver is Certified as a Consumer Bankruptcy Specialist by the American Board of Certification.

From:

Bob Parsley <Bob.Parsley@millermartin.com>

Sent:

Thursday, June 27, 2024 8:08 AM

To:

appellatecourtclerk@tncourts.gov appellatecourtclerk; appellatecourtclerk

Subject:

Amendment of Tennessee Supreme Court Rule 9, section 10.1

Hon. James Hivner Appellate Court Clerk

I respectfully support the proposed amendment.

Robert F. Parsley Attorney / Chattanooga TN **Robert F. Parsley**

in f X 0

REc'd By

FILED

JUN 27 2024

Clerk of the Appellate Courts

d (423) 785-8211

f (423) 321-1511

Volunteer Building Suite 1200 | 832 Georgia Avenue | Chattanooga, TN 37402



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