



ADM2025-00078

February 13, 2025

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

RE: ADM2025-00078

Officers

Jonathan D. Cooper  
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Dear Mr. Hivner:

Pursuant to the Tennessee Supreme Court's Order referenced above, the Knoxville Bar Association ("KBA") Professionalism Committee ("Committee") carefully considered the proposed amendments to Rule 9 of the Tennessee Supreme Court. The Committee presented a report with its recommendation on the requested amendment at the February 12, 2025 meeting of the KBA Board of Governors (the "KBA Board").

After consideration, the KBA Board submits the following comment from the Committee:

Board of Governors

Courcney Barnes-Anderson  
R. Kim Burnette  
Melissa B. Carrasco  
Meagan Collver  
Samuel K. Lee  
T. Mitchell Panter  
M. Samantha Parris  
Courtney E. Read  
Charles S.J. Sharrett  
James T. Snodgrass  
James R. Stovall  
C. Scott Taylor  
Alicia J. Teubert

The Professionalism Committee generally is not opposed to the proposed amendments. The Committee understands that the rest of the current version of Rule 9, section 33.1(a), after the proposed insert, is not intended to be omitted. The Committee respectfully suggests substituting the word "discipline" for the word "punishment" in the proposed additions to section 33.1(d) to make the amendment more consistent with the language of Rule 9 and the purposes of attorney discipline, which are not exclusively punitive. *See, e.g.*, Rule 9 § 11 ("Grounds for Discipline"); § 12 ("Types of Discipline").

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

Sincerely,

Jonathan D. Cooper, President  
Knoxville Bar Association

Executive Director  
Tasha C. Blakney

General Counsel  
Adrienne L. Anderson

cc: Tasha Blakney, KBA Executive Director (via email)  
Executive Committee of the Knoxville Bar Association