

# Lawyer Discipline

## REPORT CARD

### TENNESSEE

Overall Grade: **C-**



**About Tennessee's Lawyer Discipline System:**

Ranked 30th in the nation overall.

★ *Honorable Mention: Telephone Services.*

The Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility offers a Consumer Assistance Program (CAP) that helps consumers resolve disputes with their lawyers before the formal complaint stage. Among other things, CAP will call an attorney on a consumer's behalf to ask the attorney to return the client's phone calls or update the client on the status of the case. CAP will also help consumers retrieve files from a resistant lawyer.

⚠ Received an F in Public Participation because the Board of Professional Responsibility does not permit non-lawyers to serve on lawyer discipline hearing panels.

⚠ The Board of Professional Responsibility does not host a website, although limited information about the lawyer discipline system may be found on the Tennessee Supreme Court's website.

⚠ Tennessee grievants may only attend hearings when Bar Counsel calls them as witnesses. Forty-four jurisdictions allow grievants to attend disciplinary hearings regardless of whether they are called as witnesses.

Adequacy of Discipline Imposed	C-
Publicity and Responsiveness	C+
Openness of the Process	C
Fairness of Disciplinary Procedures	C+
Public Participation	F
Promptness	C
<b>Overall Grade</b>	<b>C-</b>

Compiled by  
**HALT**  
 An Organization of  
 Americans for Legal Reform

To file a grievance against an attorney licensed in Tennessee, obtain a grievance form from the Board of Professional Responsibility's Consumer Assistance Program by calling (615) 361-7500 or (800) 486-5714.