

**SUPREME COURT OF WISCONSIN**  
**OFFICE OF LAWYER REGULATION**

---

**Public Reprimand with Consent**

**T. Michael Barrett**  
**Attorney at Law**

**2020-OLR-8**

---

T. Michael Barrett is a Wisconsin-licensed attorney, whose address of record is P.O. Box 5061, Elm Grove, Wisconsin 53122-5061.

On August 16, 2011, Barrett was charged with one count of possession of a firearm silencer. According to the criminal complaint, Barrett purchased a semiautomatic .22 caliber handgun with an attached silencer from M.B., a confidential informant working with the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). The complaint states that M.B. had a series of recorded phone conversations with Barrett regarding the sale of two firearms, one of which had an attached silencer. During the phone conversations, Barrett acknowledged the illegality of the silencer, but agreed to meet M.B. in the parking lot of a local shopping mall to look at the firearms. Law enforcement monitored the meeting by video and audio recording and by surveillance. The complaint states that Barrett told M.B. that the silencer was “highly, highly, highly, highly illegal,” calling it a “hit man’s gun,” but told M.B. that if caught with a silencer, he would simply “say I was going to dispose of it[.]” Barrett purchased two firearms and the silencer, but removed the silencer from the .22 caliber firearm and placed it in a separate metal box. Recordings from the meeting show that Barrett, an attorney, told M.B.:

I ain't even going to put that in the same box.... That way they [the police] have to have a warrant to get in there on my way home.... I put it in a metal box. They can't x-ray that fucker without a warrant and then ... I can say, well I was just going to destroy it for a client[.] Then we're protected by attorney-client privilege. They can never get the shit out of me!

Barrett placed the firearms and silencer in the trunk of his car, and was subsequently arrested and charged.

Beginning on February 17, 2014, a jury trial was held. On February 21, 2014, the jury found Barrett guilty. On April 18, 2014, Barrett was sentenced to five months in the House of Correction, a sentence that he served.

By engaging in conduct leading to a criminal felony conviction for possession of a firearm silencer in violation of Wis. Stat. § 941.298(2), Attorney T. Michael Barrett violated SCR 20:8.4(b), which states, “It is professional misconduct for a lawyer to commit a criminal act that reflects adversely on the lawyer’s honesty, trustworthiness or fitness as a lawyer in other respects.”

Barrett has no prior discipline.

For the above misconduct, and in accordance with SCR 22.09(3), Attorney T. Michael Barrett is hereby publicly reprimanded.

Dated this 19<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2020.

SUPREME COURT OF WISCONSIN

        /s/          
Jeffrey Kremers, Referee