



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Case No. S98Y1464.

Atlanta **SEP 11 1998**

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

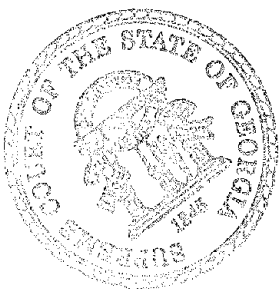
IN THE MATTER OF JAMES E. GOODMAN

This disciplinary proceeding is before the Court on the special master's and the Review Panel's recommendation that Respondent James E. Goodman receive a Letter of Formal Admonition and change the name of his law firm. The State Bar filed a Formal Complaint against Goodman charging him with violating Standards 5 (a) (4) (failure to include in a communication from the lawyer the name of at least one lawyer responsible for its content); 9 (a) (1) (use of a trade name that does not include the name of at least one of the lawyers practicing under that name); and 9 (a) (2) (use of a trade name that implies a connection with a governmental agency, with a public or charitable legal services organization, or any other organization, association or institution or entity without such a connection) of Bar Rule 4-102 (d). The charges arose from Goodman's use of the name "Persons With Disability Law Center, P.C." for his private practice law firm and certain publications, including a business card, that falsely imply his firm's connection with governmental agencies or charitable legal services. Although Goodman contends that the firm's name is not a trade name as defined under Georgia statutes, we agree with the State Bar that it is a trade name under the common law and that Goodman's conduct violated the standards. We also agree with the special master and the Review Panel that Goodman's cooperation with disciplinary authorities, his lack of selfish or dishonest motive and the lack of harm to the complainant warrant imposing the sanction of a Letter of Formal Admonition.

Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that Goodman receive a Letter of Formal Admonition and that he change the name of his law firm to bring it into compliance with disciplinary standards. Bar Rule 4-207.

All the Justices concur, except Fletcher, P.J., not participating.

SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
Clerk's Office, Atlanta



I hereby certify that the above is a true extract from
the minutes of the Supreme Court of Georgia

Witness my signature and the seal of said court hereto
affixed the day and year last above written.

, Chief Deputy Clerk