



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Case No. S05Y0760

Atlanta March 7, 2005

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.
The following order was passed.

IN THE MATTER OF ROBERT A. MEIER, IV.

It appears that the above-styled disciplinary matter is before the Court on a Petition for Voluntary Discipline filed by Respondent Robert A. Meier, IV subsequent to the issuance of a Formal Complaint pursuant to Bar Rule 4-227 (c). Meier requests, and both the special master and the State Bar recommend, the imposition of a Review Panel Reprimand for his admitted violation of Rule 1.4 of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct, a part of Bar Rule 4-102 (d). Meier admits that a client paid him \$20,000 to handle post-conviction proceedings and requested that he allege ineffective assistance of counsel. Meier states that, finding no basis in fact or law to raise ineffective assistance, he neither raised the claim nor informed the client of such in writing. The Court of Appeals subsequently affirmed the client's conviction after considering the enumeration of errors and brief filed by the client's former appellate attorney. Meier returned the \$20,000 fee, acknowledged his failures to communicate in writing and to document verbal communications adequately, and retained the services, and implemented the recommendations, of the State Bar's Law Practice Management Program in order to avoid such communication problems in the future. Meier further states that he is sincerely remorseful and apologetic for the situation. After a review of the record, this

Court accepts the facts and violation as admitted by Meier and, while noting in aggravation of discipline that he has a prior disciplinary offense, In the Matter of Meier, 256 Ga. 72 (344 SE2d 212) (1986), notes in mitigation that Meier has displayed a cooperative attitude towards the proceedings and has shown remorse. Accordingly, the Petition for Voluntary Discipline is accepted and, pursuant to Bar Rule 4-102 (b) (4), a Review Panel Reprimand hereby is imposed for Meier's violation of Rule 1.4 of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct.

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



I 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.

Lapine M. Gresham
, Chief Deputy Clerk