



**SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA**

Case No. S99Y0709.

Atlanta

**NOV 01 1999**

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

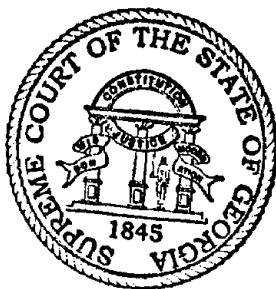
The following order was passed:

**IN THE MATTER OF JASON ROY HASTY**

This disciplinary proceeding is before the Court on the Review Panel of the State Disciplinary Board's Report and Recommendation rejecting the special master's report finding that Respondent, Jason Roy Hasty, did not violate Standard 47 (lawyer shall not communicate or cause another to communicate on the subject of the representation with a party he knows to be represented by a lawyer in that matter) of Bar Rule 4-102 (d). The Review Panel recommended that this Court appoint a new special master for the purpose of conducting a further evidentiary hearing. The State Bar filed timely Exceptions to the Report and Recommendation of the Review Panel, arguing that the evidence in the record presented to the Review Panel was sufficient to show Respondent violated Standard 47. We agree with the State Bar that the evidence is sufficient to support a finding that Respondent violated Standard 47 and that no further proceeding is necessary for the imposition of discipline by this Court.

The evidence shows that Respondent's client in a divorce action appeared at his law office and asked for changes to be made to a separation agreement Respondent had drafted and forwarded to opposing counsel representing the client's wife. Respondent states that his client informed him that the client's wife had discharged her attorney and was proceeding on her own. Respondent, however, made no effort to contact opposing counsel to confirm his client's representations, nor did Respondent otherwise attempt to obtain confirmation of this fact despite knowing that his client was eager to negotiate and execute a binding settlement agreement and to exclude the wife's lawyer from both the negotiation and execution of the agreement. After Respondent amended the separation agreement as instructed by his client, the client left with the amended agreement for a moment and returned with an executed agreement witnessed by Respondent's secretarial staff. Respondent then filed the separation agreement on behalf of his client. As Respondent's actions support a finding that Respondent facilitated his client's negotiation and execution of the separation agreement with the client's wife by revising the settlement agreement in consultation with his client and furnishing the revised draft to his client with the understanding that his client was going to attempt to persuade the wife to sign the settlement agreement without consulting with her lawyer, we hold that Respondent violated Standard 47 in that he "caused another" to communicate on the subject of the representation with a party he knew was represented by a lawyer.

Based on our review of the record and the circumstances presented, we believe that a Review Panel reprimand is an appropriate sanction in this case. Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that the Review Panel administer a Review Panel reprimand declaring Respondent's conduct to be improper. Bar Rule 4-102 (b) (4).



**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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Patricia J. Middleton".

Deputy Clerk