



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Case No. S96Y1841

Atlanta December 5, 1996

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

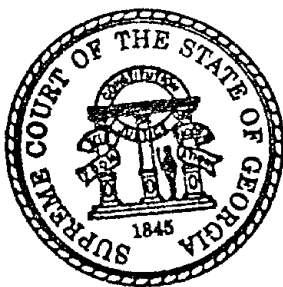
S96Y1841. IN THE MATTER OF: W. ROY MAYS III

The Office of General Counsel of the State Bar of Georgia filed three separate Formal Complaints against the Respondent, alleging that Respondent had repeatedly violated Standard 44 of Bar Rule 4-102 (willful abandonment or disregard of a legal matter entrusted to him); had engaged in professional conduct involving fraud, dishonesty, deceit or willful misrepresentation (Standard 4); had improperly withdrawn from representation (Standard 22) without refunding the unearned portion of a fee paid in advance (Standard 23); and had failed to respond timely to disciplinary proceedings (Standard 68). One of the proceedings went into default, but was successfully re-opened after Respondent filed responses to the disciplinary actions. Respondent filed a Petition for Voluntary Discipline in which he made admissions that he had violated Standard 44 with regard to two of the three complaining clients, and had violated Standard 68 in the third matter by failing to respond properly to the Notice of Investigation. The Special Master accepted Respondent's Petition for Voluntary Discipline and, after considering in mitigation Respondent's lack of prior discipline, his cooperation with disciplinary authorities, and his regret over the way he had handled his clients' affairs, recommended that Respondent receive a Public Reprimand for his admitted violation of Standards 44 and 68. The Review Panel adopted the Special Master's findings of fact and conclusions of law and unanimously recommended that Respondent receive a Public Reprimand for his two violations of Standard 44 and one violation of Standard 68.

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Having reviewed the record, we agree with the Review Panel and the Special Master and accept Respondent's petition for voluntary discipline. We also agree that a public reprimand is appropriate discipline for Respondent's violations of the Standards of Conduct. It is hereby ordered that the Review Panel, its Chairperson, or the Chairperson's designee, prepare a public reprimand for Respondent's violations of Standards 44 and 68, and that said public reprimand be read in open court in Respondent's presence by a judge of the superior court of the county in which Respondent resides. Bar Rule 4-220(c).



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 "Lynn M. Stinson".

, Chief Deputy Clerk