



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Case No. S01Y0924

Atlanta

APR 30 2001

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

IN THE MATTER OF PATRICK T. BEALL

This disciplinary matter is before the Court on Respondent Patrick T. Beall's Petition for Voluntary Discipline, filed pursuant to Bar Rule 4-227 (b), prior to the issuance of a Formal Complaint. Beall seeks the imposition of a Review Panel reprimand, as defined by Bar Rule 4-102 (b) (4) for his admitted violation of Standards 44 (lawyer shall not without just cause to the detriment of his client in effect wilfully abandon or disregard a legal matter entrusted to him) and 68 (lawyer shall not fail to respond to disciplinary authorities) of Bar Rule 4-102 (d). Although violations of Standard 44 may be punished by disbarment and violations of Standard 68 may be punished by a public reprimand, the State Bar recommends that the Court accept Beall's petition.

In his petition, Beall admits that he agreed to represent a client in a personal injury case arising out of an automobile accident and in a breach of contract case. After investigation of the personal injury case, Beall determined that his client likely was at fault and would not recover any damages, but failed to inform the client that he would not pursue the case any further. The other driver sued the client but Beall did not file a counterclaim. The client's insurance company filed a counterclaim on her behalf and ultimately resolved the case. In the other case, Beall filed a lawsuit for his client against a bulldozer operator for failure to bulldoze and grade a road through her property. The operator's attorney advised Beall that the operator had filed for bankruptcy. Beall verified the filing; dismissed the lawsuit; and filed a proof of claim on his client's behalf. After the bankruptcy case was dismissed, Beall filed a complaint on behalf of the client but after the operator filed an answer, he again filed for bankruptcy protection and Beall filed another proof of claim. The operator filed an objection to the claim, which Beall received a copy of but to which he failed to file a response. Accordingly, the Bankruptcy Court disallowed the client's claim.

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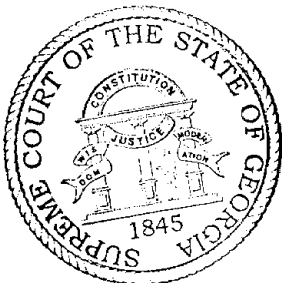
We have reviewed the record and agree with the State Bar that a Review Panel reprimand is the appropriate sanction in this case. In mitigation of Beall's conduct, we find the absence of a prior disciplinary record; full and free disclosure with the disciplinary board; and remorse. Accordingly, it hereby is ordered that, for his violation of Standards 44 and 68 of Bar Rule 4-102 (d), Patrick T. Beall be administered a Review Panel reprimand pursuant to Bar Rules 4-102 (b) (4) and 4-220 (b).

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. Smith".

, Chief Deputy Clerk