

SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

ATLANTA

NOV 22 1996

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

IN THE MATTER OF STEVEN E. LEWIS

Following the Investigative Panel's finding of probable cause, the State Bar's filing of a formal complaint, and this Court's appointment of a special master, and in lieu of filing an answer, Steven E. Lewis filed a petition for voluntary discipline. Lewis admits in his petition that his conduct in regard to his clients in an adoption matter constituted a violation of Standard 22 (b) of Bar Rule 4-102 (improper withdrawal from employment). He admits to his failure to inform the clients of his new office address, and has agreed to refund to them \$350.00, half the fee they paid him, in an attempt to rectify the consequences of his misconduct. We note in mitigation that Lewis has no prior disciplinary record; that there is no evidence of a dishonest or selfish motive on his part in this matter; that he has enjoyed a good reputation in the legal community; and that he has cooperated with the disciplinary authorities. Contrary to the Review Panel, we do not find Lewis's agreement to refund the Smiths half the fee they paid in this matter, which agreement was made only after the institution of disciplinary proceedings against him, to be a mitigating factor.

We have reviewed the record, and, in accordance with the recommendations of the special master and the Review Panel, we accept Lewis' petition for voluntary discipline. Therefore, it is hereby ordered that Lewis receive an Investigative Panel Reprimand pursuant to Bar Rules 4-102 (b) (5), 4-205, and 4-206.

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.



[Handwritten signature]

Clerk.