

In the Supreme Court of Georgia

Decided: SEP 16 2002

S02Y1463. IN THE MATTER OF JOHN THOMPSON RUTHERFORD.

PER CURIAM.

This matter is before the Court on Respondent John Thompson Rutherford's petition for voluntary surrender of his license to practice law filed pursuant to Bar Rules 4-110 (f) and 4-227 (a). In his petition, Rutherford admits that on March 26, 2002, he pled guilty in the superior Court of Henry County to three counts of bribery in violation of OCGA § 16-10-2, which are felony violations under Georgia law. Rutherford admits that entry of judgment on his plea constitutes a violation of Rule 8.4 (a) (2) (violation of rules for lawyer to be convicted of a felony) of Bar Rule 4-102 (d). The maximum penalty for a violation of Rule 8.4 (a) (2) is disbarment. The State Bar has no objection to, and the special master recommends acceptance of, Rutherford's petition.

We have reviewed the record and agree to accept Rutherford's petition for the voluntary surrender of his license, which is tantamount to disbarment, see Bar Rule 4-110 (f). Accordingly, the name of John Thompson Rutherford

hereby is removed from the rolls of persons entitled to practice law in the state of Georgia. Rutherford is reminded of his duties under Bar Rule 4-219 (c).

Voluntary surrender of license accepted. All the Justices concur.