



# SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Case No. S00Y0966.

Atlanta

APR 28 2000

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

## IN THE MATTER OF STEVEN W. KREITZER

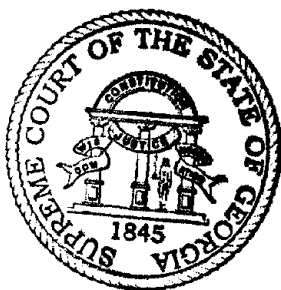
This disciplinary matter is before the Court on the Respondent Steven W. Kreitzer's Petition for Voluntary Discipline, filed pursuant to Bar Rule 4-227 (b), in which Kreitzer admits violating Standard 46 (in his representation of a client, a lawyer shall not conceal or knowingly fail to disclose that which he is required by law to reveal) of Bar Rule 4-102 (d) and seeks the imposition of a Review Panel reprimand. Although a violation of Standard 46 is punishable by a public reprimand, the State Bar recommends that the Court accept Kreitzer's petition.

In his petition, Kreitzer admits that he represented a client in a declaratory judgment action and filed an appeal on behalf of the client on March 4, 1999. On March 12, 1999, the Clerk of the Superior Court of Whitfield County sent a bill to Kreitzer for appeal costs by certified mail and the return receipt card was signed on March 16, 1999 by a receptionist named Stephanie in Kreitzer's office. On April 14, 1999, Kreitzer submitted the bill to his client. On April 16, 1999, the opposing party in the declaratory judgment action filed a motion to dismiss the appeal due to Kreitzer's client's failure to timely pay appeal costs. Kreitzer subsequently filed a response to the motion; paid the costs; and filed an affidavit stating that the delay in paying the costs "was caused by unintentional inadvertence, when the bill of costs was misplaced among other papers." The court conducted a hearing on the motion to dismiss on June 2, 1999 at which Kreitzer testified that he first saw the bill on April 13, 1999 and did not know where it was prior to that time. When opposing counsel showed Kreitzer the signed return receipt card and asked whether it could have been signed by someone with the first name Stephanie, but incorrectly guessed the last name, Kreitzer stated that he did not recognize the signature on the card, that he had never employed anyone by the names articulated, and failed to inform the court that he had employed a receptionist named Stephanie. Opposing counsel subsequently obtained the affidavit of Kreitzer's former receptionist who stated, in


the affidavit and at a June 10, 1999 hearing on the motion to dismiss, that she was employed by Kreitzer at the time in question and that she signed the card. Kreitzer admits that by failing to disclose to the court that he employed a receptionist named Stephanie at the time in question, he violated Standard 46 of Bar Rule 4-102 (d).

This Court has reviewed the record and concludes that a Review Panel reprimand is the appropriate sanction in this matter. In mitigation of discipline, it is noted that Kreitzer has no prior disciplinary record, has been cooperative with disciplinary authorities, and has expressed remorse. Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that for violation of Standard 46 of Bar Rule 4-102 (d) Respondent Steven W. Kreitzer 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.

, Chief Deputy Clerk