

**SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA**

Case No. S98Y0002

Atlanta **JAN 07 1998**

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

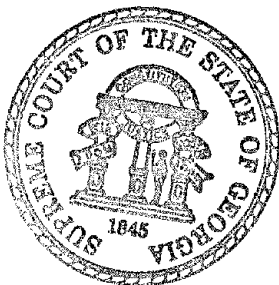
The following order was passed:

**IN THE MATTER OF BLAKE DEXTER HALBERG**

This disciplinary proceeding is before the Court on the special master's recommendation that the Court accept respondent Blake Dexter Halberg's Petition for Voluntary Discipline, in which Halberg admits violating Standards 4 (professional conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or wilful misrepresentation) and 45 (knowingly making a false statement of fact and counseling a client in conduct that the lawyer knows is illegal) of Bar Rule 4-102 (d), and seeks imposition of a Review Panel reprimand. The State Bar has no objection to the petition.

Halberg filed his Petition for Voluntary Discipline following the State Bar's Formal Complaint against him alleging that he attempted to obtain money from a client in exchange for stopping a criminal investigation against her. In mitigation of his admitted violations of Standards 4 and 45, Halberg shows: (1) he was attempting to help a friend; (2) the money was not for him; (3) the client never produced any money; (4) his practice does not include the defense of criminal drug cases; (5) he admits he drew erroneous conclusions about the situation and should have investigated further before approaching the client; (6) he admits he used bad judgment in not doing so; (7) his mistakes were made with intent to help, not intent to defraud; and (8) he represented the client in civil matters in the past and had charged her a lower rate due to their friendship. The State Bar agrees that the foregoing, and Halberg's cooperative attitude towards the proceedings, constitute mitigating factors for consideration in determining the appropriate sanction. See ABA Standards for Imposing Lawyer Sanctions (1991), Standard 9.32 (b); (e); (1).

We have reviewed the record and agree with the special master's recommendation that we accept Halberg's petition for voluntary discipline. Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that the Review Panel administer a Review Panel reprimand, declaring Halberg's conduct to be improper. Bar Rule 4-102 (4).



**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.

*Lynn M. Stinchcomb*, Chief Deputy Clerk