



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Case No. S03Y1005

Atlanta April 29, 2003

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

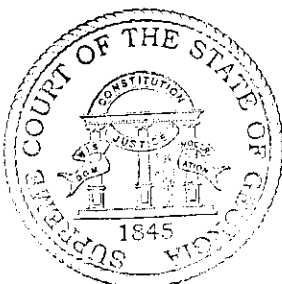
The following order was passed:

IN THE MATTER OF JOHN ALFRED ROBERTS

This disciplinary matter is before the Court pursuant to Respondent John Alfred Roberts' petition for voluntary discipline which was filed pursuant to Bar Rule 4-227 (b) prior to the issuance of a Formal Complaint. In his petition, Roberts seeks to resolve a pending disciplinary matter which charges him with violating Rule 1.16 (d) of the Rules of Professional Conduct found in Bar Rule 4-102 (d).

Roberts, who has been a member of the Bar since 1991, admits that he was hired to represent a client in claims arising from an automobile accident; that he filed the suit and later negotiated a settlement pursuant to discussions with his client; that he accepted a settlement offer from the corporate defendant with his client's approval; that the client later expressed dissatisfaction with the settlement and terminated his services, ordering him to dismiss her claims against the individual co-defendant with whom she had not reached a settlement; and that rather than immediately returning the file and the settlement proceeds to the client, he first dismissed her claims against both defendants. Based on these facts, Roberts admits that he violated Rule 1.16 (d) and requests, as discipline, a Review Panel Reprimand. The State Bar of Georgia responded to Respondent's petition indicating that it has no objection to acceptance of the petition.

Based on the record as a whole, we agree that Respondent's actions violate Rule 1.16 (d). Although the maximum penalty for a violation of Rule 1.16 (d) is a public reprimand, based on all of the circumstances of this case, we feel that the discipline proposed in Respondent's petition is appropriate and we accept his petition. Accordingly, for his admitted violation of Rule 1.16 (d) of the Rules of Professional Conduct found in Bar Rule 4-102 (d), it hereby is ordered that John Alfred Roberts be administered a Review Panel reprimand pursuant to Bar Rule 4-102 (b) (4) and 4-220 (b).

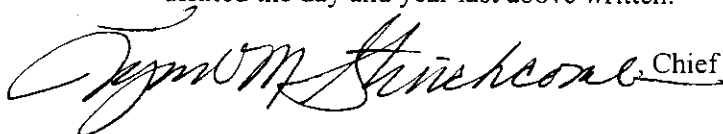


SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

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