



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Case No. S02Y0910

Atlanta

MAR 25 2002

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

IN THE MATTER OF JOHN R. SHAW, JR.

This disciplinary matter is before the Court on Respondent John R. Shaw, Jr.'s Petition for Voluntary Discipline, filed pursuant to Bar Rule 4-227 (c), following the issuance of a Formal Complaint in which the State Bar alleged that Shaw violated Standards 22 (lawyer shall not withdraw from employment without taking reasonable steps to avoid prejudice to client); 23 (lawyer who withdraws from employment should promptly refund any unearned fee); 44 (lawyer shall not wilfully abandon or disregard a legal matter entrusted to him); and 68 (failure to respond to disciplinary authorities) of Bar Rule 4-102 (d). In the petition, Shaw admits violating Standard 44, and requests the imposition of a Review Panel reprimand. The State Bar and the special master recommend that the Court accept Shaw's petition.

As Shaw admits in his petition, a client hired him to handle a legal matter involving settling the estate of her husband and paid him a fee of \$750, but Shaw did not return her telephone calls and did not perform any legal work to complete the matter entrusted to him. After the client terminated the attorney-client relationship with Shaw, Shaw did not return the funds paid to him or the documents the client sent to him to perform the work. Shaw admits his conduct violated Standard 44, which may be punished by disbarment. We have reviewed the record and agree with the State Bar and the special master that a public reprimand is the appropriate sanction under the circumstances, especially in view of the fact that Shaw has ultimately refunded the fee to the client. See In the Matter of Tramel, Case No. S00Y1947 (decided January 5, 2001).

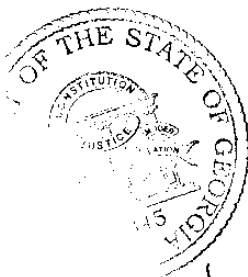
Accordingly, it hereby is ordered that for his violation of Standard 44 of Bar Rule 4-102 (d) Respondent John R. Shaw, Jr. be administered a Review Panel reprimand pursuant to Bar Rules 4-102 (b) (4) and 4-220 (b).

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.



Lyne M. Smithson, Chief Deputy Clerk