



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Case No. S00Y1933.

Atlanta

SEP 08 2000

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

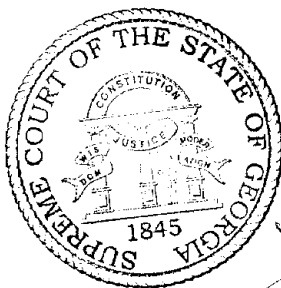
IN THE MATTER OF WILLIAM LEWIS VAUGHN

This disciplinary matter is before the Court on Respondent William Lewis Vaughn's Petition for Voluntary Discipline, filed pursuant to Bar Rule 227 (b) (2) prior to the issuance of a Formal Complaint, in which Vaughn admits violating Standards 22 (b) (lawyer shall not withdraw from employment until he has taken reasonable steps to avoid foreseeable prejudice to the rights of his client, including giving due notice to his client, allowing time for employment of other counsel, delivering to the client all papers and property to which the client is entitled and complying with applicable laws and rules); and 44 (lawyer shall not without just cause to the detriment of his client in effect wilfully disregard a legal matter entrusted to him) of Bar Rule 4-102 (d), and seeks imposition of a Review Panel reprimand. Although a violation of Standard 44 may be punished by disbarment, the State Bar asks the Court to accept Vaughn's petition.

In his petition, Vaughn admits that in April 1998, an agent for United Security Alliance ("USA") hired him to domesticate a Florida judgment in the Superior Court for Crawford County, Georgia. Vaughn asked for a \$250 retainer but did not enter an appearance in the petition and did not appear for the hearing on September 28, 1998; accordingly, the court dismissed USA's petition for want of prosecution. Although Vaughn received the retainer from USA in October 1998, he did not return any of the agent's calls during October, November or December of 1998 and did not speak with the agent until November 15, 1999, at which time he told her the court had dismissed the case, but that he could, and would, re-file the petition the following week. Vaughn did not re-file the petition, however, and did not respond to any of the agent's telephone calls, nor did he comply with her written request on November 29, 1999 either to report on the status of the case or to return USA's retainer. Vaughn admits that his conduct violated Standards 22 (b) and 44.

We have reviewed the record and agree with the State Bar that a Review Panel reprimand is the appropriate sanction where, as here, a lawyer is negligent and does not act with reasonable diligence in representing a client, and causes injury or potential injury to the client. We also note in mitigation of Vaughn's conduct that he does not have a record of prior discipline, has made full and free disclosure to the disciplinary board, and displayed a cooperative attitude toward the proceedings. Accordingly, it hereby is ordered that for his violations of Standards 22 (b) and 44 of Bar Rule 4-102 (d), William Lewis Vaughn 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