



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Case No. S00Y1627

Atlanta SEP 08 2000

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

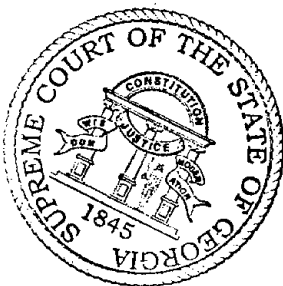
The following order was passed:

IN THE MATTER OF BILLY C. MATHIS.

This disciplinary matter is before the Court on Billy C. Mathis' Petition for Voluntary Discipline, filed pursuant to Bar Rule 4-227 (b) before the issuance of a Formal Complaint, in which he admits violating Standard 69 (lawyer shall not represent a client whose interests are adverse to the interests of a former client of the lawyer in any matter substantially related to the matter in which the lawyer represented the former client unless he has obtained written consent of the former client after full disclosure) of Bar Rule 4-102 (d), and seeks the imposition of a Review Panel reprimand. Although a violation of Standard 69 may be punished by disbarment, the State Bar recommends the Court accept Mathis' petition.

In his petition, Mathis admits that in June 1999, at the time he formed a law partnership with John Philip Cannon, Mathis had been appointed to represent Denver Perkins, who was one of three co-defendants in a criminal case, and he continued that representation after he and Cannon formed the partnership. At that time, Brian Tabb, one of Perkins' co-defendants, contacted Cannon regarding representation in the same case. On July 26, 1999, Mathis withdrew as counsel for Perkins, and Tabb retained Cannon to represent him in the criminal case pursuant to which Cannon filed an entry of appearance on August 2, 1999. Cannon asked Perkins to sign a waiver of conflict but, on advice of his new attorney, he refused and the new attorney notified Cannon in writing that he advised Perkins not to execute the waiver. Tabb and Perkins were co-defendants in a criminal case in which they could have raised antagonistic defenses, but Cannon continued to represent Tabb and negotiated a plea to a lesser offense on Tabb's behalf in exchange for which Tabb agreed to testify against Perkins if necessary. On September 7, 1999, Tabb entered his plea to a lesser charge. Mathis admits that his conduct violated Standard 69 of Bar Rule 4-102 (d).

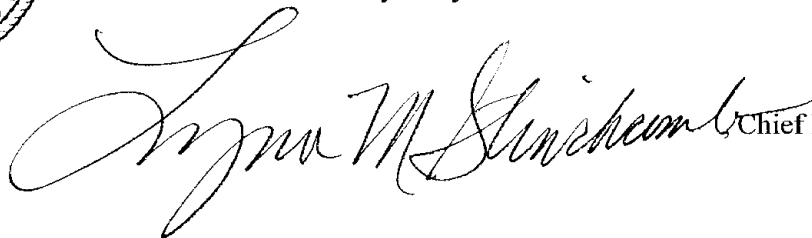
We have reviewed the record and agree with the State Bar that a Review Panel reprimand is the appropriate sanction in this matter, particularly in light of Mathis' lack of a disciplinary record, cooperation with disciplinary authorities and deep remorse. Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that for his violation of Standard 69, Respondent Billy C. Mathis 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