



**SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA**  
Case No. S06Y1895

Atlanta      October 2, 2006

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.  
The following order was passed:

**IN THE MATTER OF RALPH S. GOLDBERG.**

This disciplinary matter is before the Court on the report of the special master, recommending that the Court accept the petition for voluntary discipline and impose a public reprimand for Ralph S. Goldberg's violation of Rule 5.3 (a) (b), and (c) and Rule 1.8 of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 4-102 (d). The maximum penalty for each violation is disbarment. The State Bar concurs in the recommended discipline.

The record shows that pursuant to a contingency fee agreement providing that Goldberg was entitled to 1/3 of any recovery, Goldberg represented clients in a civil action and obtained a judgment against the defendant for \$63,400.00. Goldberg's wife, Lauren Cuvillier, worked as a paralegal in Goldberg's office and worked on this case. In an effort to collect the judgment against defendant, Goldberg arranged for the execution sale of real property owned by the defendant. Cuvillier attended the execution sale with one of the clients and acquired the property as her own separate property. When the client complained to Goldberg, he ratified Cuvillier's conduct by failing to take legal or remedial action against her. Subsequent to the filing of the disciplinary action and subsequent to Cuvillier's sale of the property, Goldberg shared \$40,270.28 with the clients, and

that amount represented 2/3 of the net proceeds of the sale of the property plus interest, with deductions for documented costs of repairs and improvements to the property and Goldberg's fee of \$20,868.73.

In mitigation, Goldberg offers that he has no prior disciplinary record in 30 years of practicing law, he cooperated with the State Bar, he did not act with a selfish or dishonest motive, and he is genuinely remorseful.

After a review of the record, we accept the special master's recommendation and the petition for voluntary discipline. Accordingly, we hereby direct that Ralph S. Goldberg receive a public reprimand.

All the Justices concur, except Hunstein, P. J., not participating.



**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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lynn M. Huncheon".

, Chief Deputy Clerk