



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Case No. S01Y1225

Atlanta JUN 25 2001

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

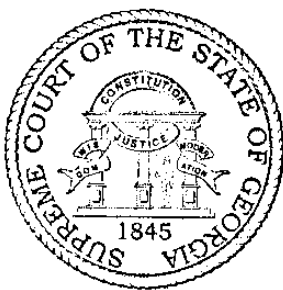
IN THE MATTER OF CHRISTOPHER MARK MILLER.

This disciplinary matter is before the Court on the Petition for Voluntary Discipline filed by Respondent Christopher Mark Miller pursuant to Bar Rules 4-212 (d) and 4-227 (c) after the issuance of a Formal Complaint against him alleging violations of Standards 4 (lawyer shall not engage in professional conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or wilful misrepresentation) and 44 (lawyer shall not wilfully disregard or abandon a legal matter entrusted to him to the detriment of his client) of Bar Rule 4-102 (d). In his petition, Miller originally admitted violating Standard 44 and requested the imposition of an Investigative Panel reprimand, which is a confidential discipline. The State Bar recommended accepting the petition, contingent upon Miller's agreeing to the imposition of a Review Panel reprimand, which is a public sanction. In his report, the special master states that by letter dated March 26, 2001, Miller notified the special master that he would accept a Review Panel reprimand. Therefore, the special master recommends that this Court accept Miller's petition and order a Review Panel reprimand.

In his petition Miller admits that on February 1, 1999, he filed a Chapter 11 bankruptcy petition for his clients in order to forestall foreclosure on their farm, even though they had little hope of being able to successfully fund a reorganization plan. On September 8, 1999, the U. S. Trustee filed a motion to dismiss or convert the bankruptcy case to a Chapter 7 case for failure to file financial reports and failure to propose a reorganization plan. Miller and the trustee entered into a consent order setting a December 1, 1999 deadline for filing a plan. Miller met with his clients in October 1999 and talked to them about the plan, advising them they would be required to pay only "pennies on the dollar." He told them he would meet with them again near Thanksgiving to finalize the plan before the deadline. Although Miller did file monthly

financial reports for April through October 1999 on December 8, 1999, he never filed the plan of reorganization. Miller withdrew from the case in January 2000, and in February the bankruptcy case was converted to Chapter 7.

We have reviewed the record and agree with the State Bar and the special master that a Review Panel reprimand is the appropriate sanction in this case. In mitigation of Miller's conduct, we note that he has had no prior disciplinary offenses, took no fee for representing the clients, had no selfish motive for his actions, has been cooperative with disciplinary authorities, and expresses remorse for any harm he has caused his former clients. Accordingly, it hereby is ordered that for his violation of Standard 44 of Bar Rule 4-102 (d), Christopher Mark Miller be administered a Review Panel reprimand pursuant to Bar Rules 4-102 (b) 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.

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

, Chief Deputy Clerk