



**SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA**  
Case No. S07Y1395

Atlanta September 25, 2007

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

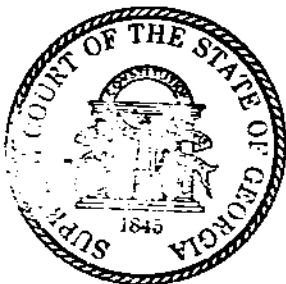
**IN THE MATTER OF ARLEEN EVANS.**

This disciplinary matter is before the Court pursuant to the Report and Recommendation of a special master on Respondent Arleen Evans' petition for voluntary discipline which she filed pursuant to Bar Rule 4-227 (c) after the State Bar filed four Formal Complaints against her (one of which was later withdrawn). In each of the remaining Formal Complaints, the State Bar charged Evans with violating Rules 1.3, 1.4 and 1.16 (d) of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct. See Bar Rule 4-102 (d). In addition, one of the Formal Complaints alleged a violation of Rule 1.5 of those same Rules. The maximum sanction for a single violation of Rule 1.3 is disbarment, while the maximum sanction for a single violation of Rule 1.4, 1.5 or 1.16 (d) is a public reprimand. In her petition for voluntary discipline, Evans admits she violated Rules 1.3 and 1.4 in all three matters and that she violated Rule 1.16 in one matter. Based on various factors in mitigation, Evans asserts that a Review Panel reprimand is the appropriate discipline for her actions. The State Bar offered no objection to Evans' petition and the special master accepted the petition. We agree with Evans, the State Bar, and the special master that, in light of the mitigating factors, a Review Panel reprimand is the appropriate discipline for Evans' conduct.

From the record it appears that Evans, who has been a member of the State Bar since 1985, agreed to represent three separate clients in civil matters; that she did so without major incident until the Fall of 2003 when she began suffering from several personal health issues leading to laser surgery on both eyes, various hospitalizations and the ultimate amputation of her right foot and lower leg in the Fall of 2004; and that her failure to communicate with (and apparent abandonment of) her clients directly coincided with her health problems. Given the record, this Court finds no factors in aggravation of discipline but as additional mitigation it

notes that Evans has no prior disciplinary record; Evans has been cooperative with the Office of General Counsel during these disciplinary matters; Evans is remorseful about the frustration and inconvenience she caused her clients; Evans did not intentionally mean to cause her clients harm; and Evans has agreed to reimburse the fees paid to her by the client involved in State Disciplinary Board No. 5096 at a rate of \$150.00 per month until paid in full.

Based on this record, this Court finds that in three separate cases Evans violated Rules 1.3 and 1.4 of the Rules of Professional Conduct found in Bar Rule 4-102 (d) and that in one of those matters Evans also violated Rule 1.16 (d) of those same Rules. The Court further agrees that, in light of the mitigating factors, the appropriate sanction in this case is as proposed by Respondent and therefore orders that for her disciplinary violations Respondent Arleen Evans 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