

SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Case No. S96Y1351.

Atlanta, June 28, 1996

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

IN THE MATTER OF MARY DEAN HERMANN

Mary Dean Hermann filed a petition for voluntary discipline in which she admitted her violations of Standards 61 and 65 (A) of Bar Rule 4-102. In her petition she acknowledges negotiating a settlement for clients in connection with a personal injury case, converting the settlement funds for her own use, and deceiving the clients regarding the status of their case. After the clients filed a lawsuit against Hermann, she entered into a settlement agreement with them, and has been making payments pursuant to that agreement.

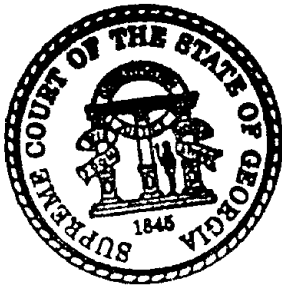
The Review Panel recommends that this Court accept Hermann's petition and that she receive a public reprimand, with certain other conditions proposed by Hermann. In mitigation of discipline, the Review Panel considered the fact that Hermann was suffering from psychological and chemical impairments during the course of her representation of the clients. We have reviewed the record and note the additional mitigating factors of her voluntary efforts toward rehabilitation and her remorse. We accept and adopt the Review Panel report and order that Mary Dean Hermann receive a public reprimand and that said reprimand be administered in open court by a judge of the Superior Court of the Atlanta Judicial Circuit. It is further ordered that Hermann comply with the following conditions:

1) She shall continue to pay amounts due her clients pursuant to her agreement with them. Upon her failure to do so, she shall be required to show cause why further appropriate discipline should not be administered in this matter;

2) For a period of three years from the date of this Order, she shall not receive or administer any client funds. In the event she violates this provision, she shall be required to show cause why further discipline should not be administered in this matter;

3) For a period of three years or until soon discharged by her therapist, she shall continue counseling with Jeffrey P. Weber, or another qualified counselor. Upon her earlier termination of such counseling, she shall be required to show cause why further discipline should not be administered. Hermann shall allow her satisfactory participation in counseling to be monitored by the Committee on Lawyer Assistance, which shall be authorized to report the results of its supervision to the Review Panel of the State Disciplinary Board;


4) For a period of three years from the date of this Order, Hermann shall continue to attend Alcoholics Anonymous meetings. Hermann shall allow her satisfactory attendance of these meetings to be monitored by the Committee on Lawyer Assistance, which shall be authorized to report the results of its supervision to the Review Panel of the State Disciplinary Board.



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