



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Case No. S00Y1023

Atlanta

APR 28 2000

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

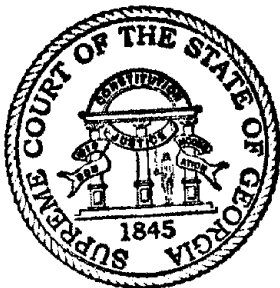
The following order was passed:

IN THE MATTER OF ALICE C. STEWART

This disciplinary matter is before the Court on Respondent Alice C. Stewart's Petition for Voluntary Discipline, filed pursuant to Bar Rule 4-227 (c) after the issuance of a Formal Complaint, in which Stewart admits violating Standard 44 (lawyer shall not without just cause to the detriment of her client in effect wilfully abandon or disregard a legal matter entrusted to her) of Bar Rule 4-102 (d). Stewart timely answered the Formal Complaint and subsequently filed her petition, in which she requests imposition of a Review Panel reprimand. Although a violation of Standard 44 may be punished by disbarment, both the State Bar and the special master recommend the Court accept Stewart's petition.

In her petition, Stewart admits that in May 1994 she agreed to represent a client in a personal injury suit and attempted to negotiate a settlement with the client's insurance company, but the client rejected all settlement offers. Stewart filed suit on behalf of the client in February 1996 but, after commencement of the litigation, relations between Stewart and her client had deteriorated to such an extent that communication was difficult and unproductive. Accordingly, Stewart moved to withdraw from the case in August 1998. Stewart admits there was a continuing and protracted delay in her handling of the case that caused her client worry and concern. Stewart admits her conduct violated Standard 44 of Bar Rule 4-102 (d).

We have reviewed the record and agree with the State Bar and special master that a Review Panel reprimand is the appropriate sanction in this matter. Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that for her violation of Standard 44 of Bar Rule 4-102 (d) Respondent Alice C. Stewart 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