



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Case No. S99Y0376.

Atlanta **FEB 19 1999**

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

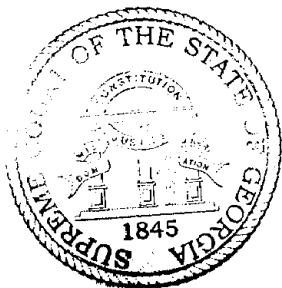
The following order was passed:

IN THE MATTER OF KAREN LYNN SACANDY

This disciplinary proceeding is before the Court on the special master's recommendation that Respondent Karen Lynn Sacandy receive a Letter of Formal Admonition for her violation of Standard 23 (lawyer who withdraws from employment shall refund promptly any fee paid in advance that has not been earned) of Bar Rule 4-102 (d). The State Bar filed a Formal Complaint against Sacandy, which she answered, and the parties entered into a joint stipulation of facts. The facts show that after Sacandy broke her back in May 1995, she was unable to work full time for three months and depleted her savings. In April 1996, she received a \$750 retainer from a client to handle a domestic matter, but only worked on the matter for approximately four hours and failed to refund the retainer for nine months after the client demanded a refund. Sacandy closed her law office on December 30, 1996 and was unable to find full-time employment thereafter for 16 months, during which time she took part-time jobs and sold personal possessions to generate revenue. We agree with the special master that Sacandy's financial problems were substantial, but that her failure to repay her client for nine months after demand for payment was not "prompt" as contemplated by the disciplinary rules. Therefore, we further agree with the special master that Sacandy violated Standard 23 but, in light of the mitigating circumstances of her financial condition and eventual repayment in full, a Letter of Formal Admonition is the appropriate sanction in this case.

Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that Sacandy receive a Letter of Formal Admonition. Bar Rule 4-207.

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