



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Case No. S07Y0646

Atlanta March 26, 2007

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

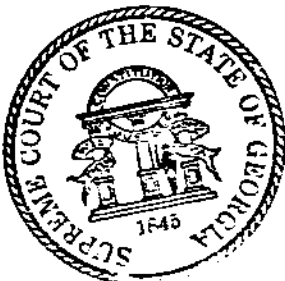
IN THE MATTER OF JAMES FRANKLIN TAYLOR.

This disciplinary matter is before the Court on the Report and Recommendation of the Review Panel of the State Disciplinary Board, recommending that James Franklin Taylor receive a public reprimand as reciprocal discipline pursuant to Rule 9.4 (b) of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct, Bar Rule 4-102 (d), based on his receiving a public censure from the Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility.

The facts underlying the public censure are that Taylor was retained to represent a client on aggravated assault charges; the client paid Taylor \$3,700; the fee contract provided that if the "services of the attorney are terminated or dispensed with for any cause other than the attorney's inability to perform the fee paid remains deemed earned and no part returned . . . If some unforeseen event should develop which prevents the attorney from continuing to represent the client, such portion of the fee paid that exceeds services rendered shall be returned . . . ;" Taylor appeared at a bond reduction hearing, filed a motion for discovery, arranged for a transcript, secured a plea deadline date, and negotiated a plea offer; the client

rejected the plea and insisted upon going to trial; Taylor withdrew and did not refund any fees; Taylor stated the reason for the withdrawal was the client's dissatisfaction with his services; Taylor claimed he was entitled to keep the entire fee under the contract; and the client claimed that Taylor did not respond to his letters or calls. The Tennessee Board of Professional Responsibility concluded that Taylor was obligated to allow the matter to proceed to trial, even if that was against his advice, and that Taylor violated Tennessee Rules of Professional Conduct 1.4, 1.5, and 8.4 (d).

Because Taylor acknowledged service of the Notice of Reciprocal Discipline but did not object in any way, this Court hereby accepts the recommendation of the Review Panel and orders that Taylor receive a public reprimand, as the discipline most similar to Tennessee's public censure.



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