



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Case No. S00Y1729

Atlanta

SEP 08 2000

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

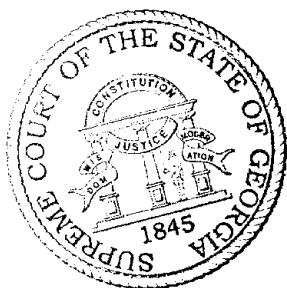
IN THE MATTER OF FRANK B. PERRY

This disciplinary matter is before the Court on Respondent Frank B. Perry's Petition for Voluntary Discipline, filed pursuant to Bar Rule 4-227 (c) after the issuance of a Formal Complaint in which the State Bar charged Perry with violating Standards 4 (lawyer shall not engage in professional conduct involving dishonesty, fraud, deceit or wilful misrepresentation) and 44 (lawyer shall not without just cause in effect wilfully abandon or disregard a legal matter entrusted to him to the detriment of his client) of Bar Rule 4-102 (d). Perry answered the complaint and filed a Petition for Voluntary Discipline in which he admits violating Standard 44 and seeks imposition of a Review Panel reprimand. Although a violation of Standard 44 may be punished by disbarment, the State Bar and the special master recommend the Court accept the petition.

In his petition, Perry admits that in January 1997, a couple hired him to represent them in connection with an automobile accident in which they were involved in August 1996 in Alabama. Shortly thereafter, Perry notified the insurance company of the other driver and the driver's employer of the representation, and received a letter almost a year later from the insurance company indicating it had not heard further from Perry and seeking the claim information. Perry failed to respond to the letter and told his clients in April 1998 that they had plenty of time to file a lawsuit, but under Alabama law, the statute of limitations on the claim expired on August 30, 1998. After meeting with the clients in October 1998, Perry failed to return their numerous telephone calls. Perry admits that his conduct violated Standard 44.

We have reviewed the record and agree with the State Bar and the special master that a Review Panel reprimand is the appropriate sanction where, as

here, a lawyer is negligent and does not act with reasonable diligence in representing a client, thus causing injury or potential injury to the client. Accordingly, it hereby is ordered that for his violation of Standard 44 of Bar Rule 4-102 (d) Respondent Frank B. Perry 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.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Lynn M. Stuchman".

, Chief Deputy Clerk