



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

Case No. S03Y1457

Atlanta July 14, 2003

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed.

IN THE MATTER OF DEAN YOUNG.

This disciplinary matter is before the Court on Respondent Dean Young's Petition for Voluntary Discipline filed pursuant to Bar Rule 4-227 (c) after the State Bar's issuance of a Formal Complaint. Young requests the imposition of a public reprimand for his violations of Rules 1.3, 1.4, 1.16 and 9.3 of Bar Rule 4-102 of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct. Violations of Rules 1.3, 1.4 and 1.16 are punishable by public reprimand, while a violation of Rule 9.3 is punishable by disbarment. The special master recommends that this Court accept Young's petition and the State Bar does not object.

Young admits in his petition that he agreed to represent a couple in a matter involving their 2000 federal and state tax returns. Although his clients provided him with the necessary documents, paid him \$250.00 in attorney fees in March 2001, and promptly signed and mailed the returns back to Young in April 2001 per his instructions, Young failed to file the returns until January 24, 2002. Between May and September 2001, Young failed to return his clients' repeated telephone calls regarding the status of their returns; failed to respond to an e-mail sent by his clients on or about August 21, 2001; failed to return the clients' file or provide an accounting as requested by the clients via certified letter received by Young in September 2001; and failed to file a timely sworn response to the State Bar's Notice of Investigation despite having acknowledged service. On April 4, 2002, this Court suspended Young from the practice of law for his failure to respond to the Notice of Investigation. The interim suspension was lifted by order of this Court entered September 16, 2002 following the filing of Young's sworn response on August 22, 2002.

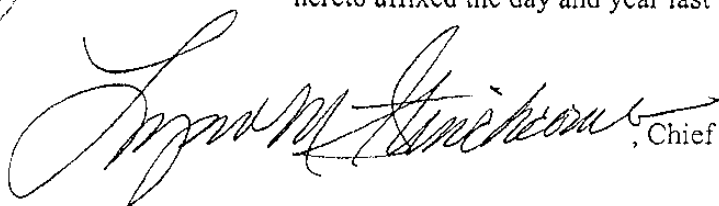
In mitigation, Young asserts, and the State Bar and special master accept, that the majority of his inaction and failure to respond to his clients was due to illness and that he is deeply remorseful for any harm he may have caused. Young states that he has been and remains under the care and treatment of a physician and that his medical problems are now under control and he is no longer impaired. It is also noted that Young has no prior disciplinary record. We have reviewed the record and agree with the special master and State Bar that a public reprimand is an appropriate sanction in this matter. Accordingly, it hereby is ordered that respondent Dean Young be administered a public reprimand in open court pursuant to Bar Rules 4-102 (b) (3) and 4-220 (c) by a judge of the superior court where Young resides or where his disciplinary infractions occurred.



SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA
Clerk's Office, Atlanta

I 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.


Lynn M. Anderson, Chief Deputy Clerk