



SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA
Case No. S00Y0344.

Atlanta

FEB 11 2000

The Honorable Supreme Court met pursuant to adjournment.

The following order was passed:

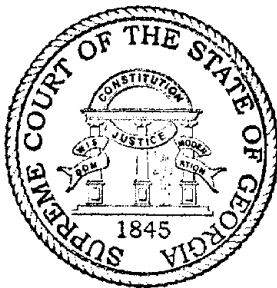
IN THE MATTER OF ROBERT A. WILKINSON

This disciplinary proceeding is before the Court on the petition for voluntary discipline of Respondent Robert A. Wilkinson. Wilkinson admits violating Standards 22 (withdrawal from employment without taking reasonable steps to avoid foreseeable prejudice to the rights of the client, including giving due notice to the client, allowing time for employment of other counsel, delivering to the client all papers and property to which the client is entitled and complying with applicable laws and rules) and 44 (wilful abandonment or disregard of a legal matter to the client's detriment) of Bar Rule 4-102 (d) and requests that this Court accept his petition and impose a Review Panel reprimand. The State Bar is in agreement with Wilkinson's petition. Having reviewed the record, we agree that a Review Panel reprimand is the appropriate sanction.

Wilkinson filed his Petition for Voluntary Discipline, prior to the State Bar's filing of a formal complaint against him, seeking resolution of three grievances pending against him in State Disciplinary Board Docket Numbers 3892 and 3893, and Office of the General Counsel File Number 990287 alleging violations of Standards 22 and 44 of Bar Rule 4-102 (d). In his petition, Wilkinson admits that, after being hired by three different clients to represent them in proceedings before the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service ("INS"), he failed to do the work for which he was hired and failed to file petitions on their behalf. Further, he and his staff repeatedly assured the clients that their proceedings with the INS were progressing satisfactorily when, in fact, their petitions had not been filed. Subsequently, each of the clients terminated their employment of Wilkinson and were forced to hire new counsel. In one instance, following his termination, Wilkinson failed to forward the client's files to the client's new attorney. As a result of his actions, Wilkinson admits he violated Standards 22 and 44. In mitigation of his admitted violations, Wilkinson shows: (1) he has not received any prior discipline although he has been a member of the State Bar of Georgia since

1983; and (2) he has made full and free disclosure to the disciplinary board and displayed a cooperative attitude toward the proceedings. The State Bar agrees that a reprimand is generally appropriate when a lawyer is negligent and does not act with reasonable diligence in representing a client, causing injury or potential injury to the client and requests that this Court impose a Review Panel reprimand for Wilkinson's conduct in violation of Standards 22 and 44 of Bar Rule 4-102 (d).

We have reviewed the record and agree with the State Bar's recommendation that we accept Wilkinson's petition for voluntary discipline. Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that the Review Panel administer a Review Panel reprimand declaring Wilkinson's conduct to be improper. Bar Rule 4-102 (b) (4).

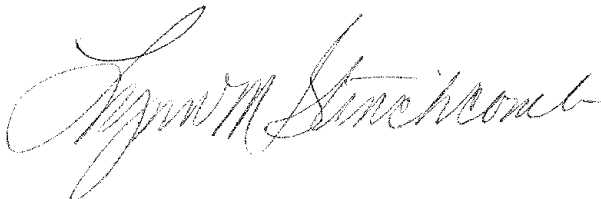


SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF GEORGIA

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