

SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

In the Matter of Bryan Matthew Pritchett

S26Y0106 · No. S26Y0106 · Decided February 17, 2026

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Georgia disbarred Bryan Matthew Pritchett after he defaulted in disciplinary proceedings involving forgery and conversion of client settlement checks, misrepresentations to clients, and failures to respond to the State Bar. The Court ordered that he be removed from the rolls of Georgia attorneys and required restitution totaling \$159,615 as a condition of any future readmission.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Georgia
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of Georgia
DECIDED	February 17, 2026
DOCKET	S26Y0106
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Attorney-discipline matter submitted to the Supreme Court of Georgia on a Special Master's report and recommendation. The respondent defaulted, filed no exceptions, and the Special Master recommended disbarment.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The Court reviewed the disciplinary record and determined whether disbarment was the appropriate sanction in light of the admitted violations, applicable disciplinary standards, and aggravating and mitigating factors.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- remedies
- accounting

PRACTICE AREAS

- legal ethics and professional responsibility
- attorney discipline
- trust-account and client-fund violations
- workers' compensation

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the respondent's default required the Court to treat the factual allegations and charged disciplinary violations as admitted.
2. Whether disbarment was the appropriate sanction for forging client signatures, converting client funds, deceiving clients, and failing to cooperate with disciplinary authorities.
3. Whether restitution should be required as a condition of any future readmission.

HOLDINGS

1. Because Pritchett defaulted, he was deemed to have admitted the factual allegations and disciplinary violations charged.
2. Disbarment was the appropriate sanction for Pritchett's admitted misconduct, including conversion of client funds, forgery, deception, failure to communicate, and failure to cooperate with disciplinary authorities.
3. If Pritchett seeks readmission, he must make restitution totaling \$159,615 and provide the Court proof of that restitution.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Having reviewed the record, we agree that disbarment is the appropriate sanction, and that disbarment is consistent with prior cases in which an attorney admitted to violating similar provisions of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct that carry disbarment as a sanction and failed to participate fully in the disciplinary process.” (at 9-10)

“If Pritchett ever seeks readmission, he must make restitution in the total amount of \$159,615, consisting of \$25,000 to the client in SDB Docket No. 7861, \$29,715 to the client in SDB Docket No. 7862, and \$104,900 to the client in Docket No. 7863, and Pritchett must offer to the Court proof of that restitution.” (at 10)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Bryan Matthew Pritchett represented injured workers in workers' compensation cases. In three matters, he received checks payable to clients, forged the clients' signatures, deposited the proceeds into personal or business accounts, and used the money for himself. He concealed the misconduct by lying to or failing to respond to client inquiries and by failing to respond to the State Bar's requests for information and notices of investigation.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The State Bar of Georgia filed formal complaints in June and July 2024. After service by email, mail, and publication, the respondent failed to answer or request extensions, and the Special Master granted the Bar's unopposed motions for default. The Special Master recommended disbarment, and the Supreme Court of Georgia reviewed the record and approved that recommendation.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- In the Matter of Morse, 266 Ga. 652 (1996)
- In the Matter of Hardy, 316 Ga. 845, 852 n.16 (2023)
- In the Matter of Fagan, 314 Ga. 208, 213 (2022)
- In the Matter of Cheatham, 304 Ga. 645, 646 (2018)
- In the Matter of Snipes, 303 Ga. 800, 801 (2018)
- In the Matter of Mathis, 297 Ga. 867, 868 (2015)
- In the Matter of Jones, 296 Ga. 151, 152 (2014)
- In the Matter of Morris, 302 Ga. 862, 864 n.3 (2018)
- In the Matter of Herbert, 319 Ga. 881, 884 (2024)

Retrieved from lawtools.ai · <https://lawtools.ai/cases/state/supreme-court-of-georgia-supreme-court-of-georgia/2026/in-the-matter-of-bryan-matthew-pritchett-5hi5zc1s>