

SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

In the Matter of William V. Hall, Jr.

S14Y0007 · No. S14Y0007 · Decided June 30, 2014

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Georgia disbarred William V. Hall, Jr. after he pleaded guilty to misdemeanor sexual battery and public indecency arising from conduct toward a client. The Court agreed that aggravating and mitigating factors supported disbarment and ordered Hall's name removed from the rolls of persons authorized to practice law in Georgia.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Georgia
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam
JURISDICTION	Georgia
DECIDED	June 30, 2014
DOCKET	S14Y0007
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Attorney disciplinary proceeding before the Supreme Court of Georgia on the special master's Report and Recommendation following Hall's guilty pleas to misdemeanor sexual battery and public indecency.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The Court considered the special master's findings and recommendation based on the whole record.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published

TOPICS

remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

legal ethics

attorney discipline

professional misconduct

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

- Whether Hall's conduct violated Rule 8.4 (a) (3) of the Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct.
- Whether disbarment was the appropriate sanction for Hall's misconduct involving a client.

HOLDINGS

1. Hall's conduct violated Rule 8.4 (a) (3), as found by the special master.
2. Disbarment was the appropriate sanction for Hall's violation of Rule 8.4 (a) (3), notwithstanding mitigating evidence concerning his lack of a prior disciplinary record and distinguished reputation.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Considering the whole record, we conclude that the appropriate sanction in this matter is disbarment” (3)

“Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that the name of William V. Hall, Jr. be removed from the rolls of persons authorized to practice law in the State of Georgia.” (4)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

William V. Hall, Jr., an attorney representing a client in a child-support enforcement matter, solicited oral sex from the client in connection with payment of his legal fees. He exposed himself, attempted to kiss the client, touched her breasts, and made additional sexual comments before allowing her to leave. Hall later apologized and acknowledged that his conduct was in very bad taste and reprehensible. He had no prior disciplinary record and presented evidence of a distinguished reputation and long service to the Bar and community.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The State Bar initiated the disciplinary proceeding under Bar Rule 4-106. The special master granted Hall a continuance, ordered that he not practice law pending further order or final resolution, conducted an evidentiary hearing, and recommended disbarment. The Supreme Court of Georgia adopted the recommendation and ordered Hall's name removed from the rolls of persons authorized to practice law in Georgia.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- In the Matter of Jackel, 275 Ga. 568, 569 S.E.2d 835 (2002)
- In the Matter of Threlkeld, 273 Ga. 331, 539 S.E.2d 823 (2001)