

SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

In the Matter of Clark Jones-Lewis

295 Ga. 861 (2014) · No. S14Y1759 · Decided October 6, 2014

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Georgia disbarred Clark Jones-Lewis after she defaulted on disciplinary charges alleging false statements to a juvenile court, unauthorized practice of law, and misrepresentations. The Court adopted the special master's recommendation, noting her prior disciplinary history and the aggravating circumstances.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Georgia
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam; All the Justices
JURISDICTION	Georgia
DECIDED	October 6, 2014
DOCKET	S14Y1759
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Attorney disciplinary matter before the Supreme Court of Georgia on the special master's Report and Recommendation recommending disbarment. Respondent defaulted after being personally served with the Formal Complaint and failing to respond.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	Review of the record and the special master's Report and Recommendation; the Court independently determined that disbarment was the appropriate discipline.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion
PARTIES	Clark Jones-Lewis v. State Bar of Georgia

TOPICS

- default
- sanctions
- civil procedure
- remedies

PRACTICE AREAS

- legal ethics
- attorney discipline

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Jones-Lewis violated Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct 3.3 (a), 5.5 (a), and 8.4 (a) (1) by making false statements and misrepresentations and practicing law while suspended.
2. Whether disbarment was the appropriate discipline in light of the admitted violations and Jones-Lewis's prior disciplinary history.

HOLDINGS

1. When an attorney fails to respond to a Formal Complaint within the required period, the attorney is in default and the facts alleged and violations charged are deemed admitted.
2. Jones-Lewis violated Rules 3.3 (a), 5.5 (a), and 8.4 (a) (1) by making false statements to a juvenile court tribunal, practicing law while suspended, and making misrepresentations to the Special Assistant Attorney General and the court.
3. Disbarment was the appropriate discipline, and Jones-Lewis's name was properly removed from the rolls of attorneys authorized to practice law in Georgia.

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

While suspended from practicing law, Jones-Lewis contacted a Special Assistant Attorney General about a child-welfare matter, represented that she had interviewed the child's biological mother, and stated that she had families interested in adopting the child. She contacted a juvenile court judge's chambers, represented that she represented the child's grandparents, and requested a continuance of a hearing. The Court deemed these facts admitted because Jones-Lewis defaulted, and found that her conduct involved false statements to a tribunal, unauthorized practice of law, and misrepresentations to the prosecutor and court.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The State Bar filed a Formal Complaint against Clark Jones-Lewis. After Jones-Lewis failed to respond within 30 days, she was placed in default and the allegations and charged violations were deemed admitted under Bar Rule 4-212 (a). The special master recommended disbarment, and the Supreme Court of Georgia reviewed the record and adopted that recommendation.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- In the Matter of Jones-Lewis, 291 Ga. 651, 732 S.E.2d 79 (2012)
- In the Matter of Jones-Lewis, 287 Ga. 581, 697 S.E.2d 836 (2010)