

SUPREME COURT OF SOUTH CAROLINA

In the Matter of William D. Rhoad, IV

411 S.C. 236 (2015) · No. Appellate Case No. 2014-002478 · Decided January 21, 2015

SUMMARY

The South Carolina Supreme Court publicly reprimanded attorney William D. Rhoad, IV, pursuant to an Agreement for Discipline by Consent. The court found violations involving competence, diligence, client communication, file retention, failure to restore a case to the active docket, failure to prepare a divorce decree, failure to appear at a family-court hearing, and delayed response to disciplinary authorities, and imposed costs and ethics-school conditions.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of South Carolina
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam; Toal, C.J.; Pleicones, J.; Beatty, J.; Kittredge, J.; Hearn, J.
JURISDICTION	South Carolina
DECIDED	January 21, 2015
DOCKET	Appellate Case No. 2014-002478
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Attorney disciplinary proceeding arising from an Agreement for Discipline by Consent under Rule 21 of the Rules for Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement. The respondent admitted misconduct and consented to a confidential admonition or public reprimand with conditions.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published South Carolina Supreme Court disciplinary opinion; binding as to the disposition and the court's application of the cited disciplinary rules to respondent's admitted misconduct.
PARTIES	Office of Disciplinary Counsel

TOPICS

[insurance](#) [family law](#) [costs](#) [appellate procedure](#)

PRACTICE AREAS

[legal ethics and professional responsibility](#) [attorney discipline](#) [insurance litigation](#) [family law](#)

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Agreement for Discipline by Consent should be accepted.
2. Whether respondent's admitted violations of the Rules of Professional Conduct and Rules for Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement warranted a public reprimand.
3. What conditions and costs should accompany the disciplinary sanction.

HOLDINGS

1. The court accepted the Agreement for Discipline by Consent.
2. Respondent violated Rules 1.1, 1.3, 1.4, 1.16(c), 1.16(d), 3.4(c), 8.1(b), 8.4(a), and 8.4(e) of the Rules of Professional Conduct, Rule 407, SCACR, and Rule 7(a)(1) of the Rules for Lawyer Disciplinary Enforcement, Rule 413, SCACR.
3. Respondent's misconduct warranted a public reprimand, payment of disciplinary costs, and completion of the Legal Ethics and Practice Program Ethics School.

KEY QUOTATIONS

"We accept the Agreement and issue a public reprimand with conditions as stated hereafter in this opinion."
(411 S.C. at 236)

"We find respondent's misconduct warrants a public reprimand." (411 S.C. at 236)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Rhoad represented multiple clients in insurance, personal-injury, and domestic matters but failed to keep clients reasonably informed, return client files, restore a case to the active docket, submit a divorce decree after a final hearing, and appear at a scheduled family-court hearing. One client proceeded pro se after Rhoad failed to appear, and another learned that a divorce action had been dismissed after Rhoad failed to submit the required final order. Rhoad also initially failed to respond to the Office of Disciplinary Counsel's investigation.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

The Office of Disciplinary Counsel and William D. Rhoad entered into an Agreement for Discipline by Consent. Rhoad admitted violations arising from inadequate client communication, failure to preserve or return client files, failure to restore a case to the active docket, failure to submit a divorce decree and appear at a family-court hearing, and delayed response to disciplinary inquiries. The Supreme Court of South Carolina accepted the agreement and imposed a public reprimand, costs, and ethics-school requirements.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- In the Matter of Treacy, 277 S.C. 514, 290 S.E.2d 240 (1982)

- In the Matter of Toney, 396 S.C. 303, 721 S.E.2d 437 (2012)

Retrieved from lawtools.ai · <https://lawtools.ai/cases/state/south-carolina-supreme-court-of-south-carolina/2015/in-the-matter-of-william-d-rhoad-iv-kkark92g>