

SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

In the Matter of Eric C. Lang

294 Ga. 482 (2014) · No. S14Y0171 · Decided January 27, 2014

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Georgia rejected Eric C. Lang’s petition for voluntary discipline seeking a six-month suspension consecutive to an existing suspension. The Court determined that the proposed sanction was inadequate in light of Lang’s neglect of a client matter and failure to communicate an adverse judgment while his prior disciplinary petition was pending.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Georgia
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam
JURISDICTION	Georgia
DECIDED	January 27, 2014
DOCKET	S14Y0171
DISPOSITION	rejected
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Attorney disciplinary matter before the Supreme Court of Georgia on Eric C. Lang's petition for voluntary discipline seeking a six-month suspension consecutive to an existing twelve-month suspension.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	published precedential opinion

TOPICS

appellate procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

legal ethics

attorney discipline

professional responsibility

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether the Supreme Court of Georgia should accept Lang's petition for voluntary discipline proposing a six-month suspension consecutive to his existing twelve-month suspension.
2. Whether the proposed sanction was adequate in light of Lang's neglect and failure to communicate with his client while his prior voluntary-discipline petition was pending.

HOLDINGS

1. A proposed six-month suspension consecutive to Lang's existing suspension was inadequate under the circumstances, and the petition for voluntary discipline was rejected.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“In light of the record, we reject Lang’s petition for voluntary discipline.”

“We conclude that a six-month consecutive suspension is inadequate under these circumstances, especially considering that Lang’s actions in neglecting a client’s matter occurred during the pendency of the prior petition for voluntary discipline.”

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Lang represented a client who had been sued on a note. After summary judgment was entered against the client on all issues except damages, a final damages hearing occurred and judgment was entered, but Lang did not inform the client of either the hearing or the adverse judgment. The client learned of the judgment only after receiving a garnishment notice. Lang admitted violating professional-conduct Rules 1.3 and 1.4 and sought a six-month suspension consecutive to an existing suspension, citing mental-health treatment and mitigation efforts.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Lang filed a petition for voluntary discipline after admitting violations of Georgia Rules of Professional Conduct 1.3 and 1.4. The State Bar opposed the requested sanction, arguing that the misconduct occurred while Lang's prior voluntary-discipline petition was pending and noting his prior disciplinary history. The Supreme Court of Georgia rejected the petition, concluding that the proposed six-month consecutive suspension was inadequate.

DISPOSITION

rejected

CASES CITED

- In the Matter of Lang, 292 Ga. 894, 741 S.E.2d 152 (2013)