

SUPREME COURT OF GEORGIA

In the Matter of Andrew Thurston Murphy

No. S26Y0623 (Ga. June 16, 2026) · No. S26Y0623 · Decided June 16, 2026

SUMMARY

The Supreme Court of Georgia disbarred Andrew Thurston Murphy after his felony convictions for terroristic threats and intimidation of a court officer. The Court held that his convictions violated Georgia Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(a)(2) and agreed that disbarment was appropriate.

CASE DETAILS

COURT	Supreme Court of Georgia
WRITING FOR THE COURT	Per Curiam; All the Justices
JURISDICTION	Supreme Court of Georgia
DECIDED	June 16, 2026
DOCKET	S26Y0623
DISPOSITION	other
PROCEDURAL POSTURE	Attorney-discipline proceeding initiated by the State Bar of Georgia after Andrew Thurston Murphy's felony convictions; the Court reviewed a Special Master's report and recommendation of disbarment.
STANDARD OF REVIEW	The Supreme Court reviewed the record and the Special Master's findings and conclusions; it stated that the record supported the findings and conclusions but did not articulate a distinct formal standard of review.
PRECEDENTIAL VALUE	Published opinion

TOPICS

- appellate procedure
- criminal procedure

PRACTICE AREAS

- legal ethics and attorney discipline
- professional responsibility
- criminal law

QUESTIONS PRESENTED

1. Whether Murphy violated Georgia Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(a)(2) by being convicted of felonies.
2. Whether disbarment was the appropriate sanction for Murphy's felony convictions and interference with the administration of justice.

HOLDINGS

1. Murphy violated Rule 8.4(a)(2) because he was convicted of felonies.
2. Disbarment was appropriate, and Murphy's name was ordered removed from the rolls of persons authorized to practice law in Georgia.

KEY QUOTATIONS

“Upon our review of the record, we agree with the Special Master that Murphy violated Rule 8.4(a)(2) and that disbarment is appropriate, as it is consistent with the discipline imposed in similar cases where an attorney violates Rule 8.4(a)(2) by committing a felony that involves the interference with justice.” (at 3)

“Accordingly, it is hereby ordered that the name of Andrew Thurston Murphy be removed from the rolls of persons authorized to practice law in the State of Georgia.” (at 4)

FACTUAL BACKGROUND

Murphy, an attorney representing a criminal defendant, sent harassing emails containing opprobrious language and terroristic threats to the superior court judge, the Cobb County District Attorney, senior assistant district attorneys, the assistant district attorney assigned to his client's case, and other court personnel. He pleaded guilty to 13 felony counts of terroristic threats and four felony counts of intimidation of a court officer. The Special Master found that the felony convictions violated Georgia Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(a)(2), and identified aggravating factors that outweighed Murphy's lack of a prior disciplinary record.

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

Murphy pleaded guilty in the Superior Court of Cobb County to 13 felony counts of terroristic threats and four felony counts of intimidation of a court officer and was sentenced to 15 years, with the first seven years in confinement. The State Bar petitioned the Supreme Court of Georgia to appoint a Special Master, who conducted a show-cause hearing and recommended disbarment for violation of Georgia Rule of Professional Conduct 8.4(a)(2). Neither Murphy nor the Bar sought review by the Review Board or filed exceptions, and the Supreme Court adopted the recommendation.

DISPOSITION

other

CASES CITED

- In the Matter of Murphy, S24Y0065 (Aug. 24, 2023)
- In the Matter of Barnes, 320 Ga. 589 (2024)

- In the Matter of Hutto, 292 Ga. 556 (2013)
- In the Matter of Skandalakis, 279 Ga. 865 (2005)

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