

**IN THE SUPREME COURT**

**STATE OF GEORGIA**

**IN RE: STATE BAR OF GEORGIA  
Rules and Regulations for its  
Organization and Government**

**MOTION TO AMEND 2026-3**

**MOTION TO AMEND THE RULES AND REGULATIONS OF THE  
STATE BAR OF GEORGIA**

SUBMITTED this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Counsel for the State Bar of Georgia

William D. NeSmith, III  
Georgia Bar Number 535792  
Deputy General Counsel

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
State Bar of Georgia  
104 Marietta Street, NW  
Suite 100  
Atlanta, Georgia 30303  
(404) 527-8720

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COMES NOW the State Bar of Georgia, pursuant to the authorization and direction of its Board of Governors, and respectfully moves that the Rules and Regulations of the State Bar of Georgia be amended<sup>1</sup> as follows:

Preface

The Board of Governors of the State Bar of Georgia met at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 28, 2026. It approved the proposed rule changes by deleting the struck-through sections and inserting the underlined sections as follows:

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<sup>1</sup> See the order of this Court providing for such amendments dated December 6, 1963 (219 Ga. 873), and amended by subsequent Orders, and published online in the State Bar of Georgia Handbook (<https://www.gabar.org/handbook/>).

1 **Rule 4-227. Petitions for Voluntary Discipline**

2 (a) A Petition for Voluntary Discipline shall contain admissions of  
3 fact and admissions of conduct in violation of Part IV, Chapter 1 of  
4 these Rules sufficient to authorize the imposition of discipline.

5 (b) Prior to the issuance of a formal complaint, a respondent may  
6 submit a Petition for Voluntary Discipline seeking any level of  
7 discipline authorized under these Rules.

8 (1) Those petitions seeking confidential discipline shall be  
9 served on the Office of the General Counsel and assigned to a  
10 member of the State Disciplinary Board. The State Disciplinary  
11 Board shall conduct an investigation and determine whether to  
12 accept or reject the petition as outlined at Rule 4-203 (7).

13 (2) Those petitions seeking public discipline shall be filed  
14 directly with the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Georgia. The  
15 Office of the General Counsel shall have 30 days within which to  
16 file a response. The Supreme Court shall issue an appropriate  
17 order.

18 (c) After the issuance of a formal complaint a respondent may submit  
19 a Petition for Voluntary Discipline seeking any level of discipline  
20 authorized under these Rules.

21 ~~(e)(1)~~ For petitions seeking a level of discipline other than  
22 disbarment or voluntary surrender of the respondent's license to  
23 practice law submitted after issuance of a formal complaint, the  
24 procedure shall be as follows:

25 ~~(1)(i)~~ The petition shall be filed with the Clerk of the State  
26 Disciplinary Boards at the headquarters of the State Bar of  
27 Georgia and copies served upon the Special Master and all  
28 parties to the disciplinary proceeding. The Special Master  
29 shall allow ~~Bar counsel~~ the Office of the General Counsel 30  
30 days within which to respond. The Office of the General  
31 Counsel may assent to the petition or may file a response,  
32 stating objections and giving the reasons therefor. The Office  
33 of the General Counsel shall serve a copy of its response  
34 upon the respondent.

35 ~~(2)(ii)~~ The Special Master shall consider the petition,  
36 the State Bar of Georgia's response, and the record as it then

37 exists and may accept or reject the Petition for Voluntary  
38 Discipline.

39 ~~(3)(iii)~~ The Special Master may reject a petition for such  
40 cause or causes as seem appropriate to the Special Master.  
41 Such causes may include but are not limited to a finding  
42 that:

43 ~~(i)(A)~~ the petition fails to contain admissions of  
44 fact and admissions of conduct in violation of Part IV,  
45 Chapter 1 of these Rules sufficient to authorize the  
46 imposition of discipline;

47 ~~(ii)(B)~~ the petition fails to request appropriate  
48 discipline;

49 ~~(iii)(C)~~ the petition fails to contain sufficient  
50 information concerning the admissions of fact and the  
51 admissions of conduct;

52 ~~(iv)(D)~~ the record in the proceeding does not  
53 contain sufficient information upon which to base a  
54 decision to accept or reject.

55           ~~(4)~~(iv)       The Special Master’s decision to reject a Petition  
56           for Voluntary Discipline does not preclude the filing of a  
57           subsequent petition and is not subject to review by the  
58           Supreme Court of Georgia. If the Special Master rejects a  
59           Petition for Voluntary Discipline, the disciplinary case shall  
60           proceed as provided by these Rules.

61           ~~(5)~~(v) The Special Master may accept the Petition for  
62           Voluntary Discipline by entering a report making findings of  
63           fact and conclusions of law and delivering same to the Clerk  
64           of the State Disciplinary Boards. The Clerk of the State  
65           Disciplinary Boards shall file the report and the complete  
66           record in the disciplinary proceeding with the Clerk of the  
67           Supreme Court of Georgia. A copy of the Special Master’s  
68           report shall be served upon the respondent. The Court shall  
69           issue an appropriate order.

70           (2) For petitions seeking disbarment or voluntary surrender of  
71           the respondent’s licenses to practice law submitted after issuance  
72           of a formal complaint, those petitions shall be filed directly with  
73           the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Georgia, with copies served on

74 the Clerk of the State Disciplinary Boards, the Special Master,  
75 and all parties to the proceeding. The Office of the General  
76 Counsel shall have 30 days within which to file an appropriate  
77 response. The Supreme Court shall issue an appropriate order. All  
78 matters pending before the Special Master shall be stayed and  
79 tolled during the time that the petition is pending before the  
80 Supreme Court of Georgia.

81 (63) Pursuant to Rule 4-210 (e), the Special Master may, in his  
82 discretion, extend any of the time limits in these Rules in order to  
83 adequately consider a Petition for Voluntary Discipline.

If the proposed amendments to the rule are approved, the amended rule will read as it appears under Appendix “A.”

SO MOVED, this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 2026.

Counsel for the State Bar of Georgia

William D. NeSmith, III  
Georgia Bar No. 535792  
Deputy General Counsel

OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL  
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## APPENDIX

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14 directly with the Clerk of the Supreme Court of Georgia. The  
15 Office of the General Counsel shall have 30 days within which to  
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18 (c) After the issuance of a formal complaint a respondent may submit  
19 a Petition for Voluntary Discipline seeking any level of discipline  
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22 disbarment or voluntary surrender of the respondent's license to  
23 practice law submitted after issuance of a formal complaint, the  
24 procedure shall be as follows:

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26 Disciplinary Boards at the headquarters of the State Bar of  
27 Georgia and copies served upon the Special Master and all  
28 parties to the disciplinary proceeding. The Special Master  
29 shall allow the Office of the General Counsel 30 days within  
30 which to respond. The Office of the General Counsel may  
31 assent to the petition or may file a response, stating  
32 objections and giving the reasons therefor. The Office of the  
33 General Counsel shall serve a copy of its response upon the  
34 respondent.

35 (ii) The Special Master shall consider the petition,  
36 the State Bar of Georgia's response, and the record as it then

37 exists and may accept or reject the Petition for Voluntary  
38 Discipline.

39 (iii) The Special Master may reject a petition for such cause  
40 or causes as seem appropriate to the Special Master. Such  
41 causes may include but are not limited to a finding that:

42 (A) the petition fails to contain admissions of fact and  
43 admissions of conduct in violation of Part IV, Chapter 1  
44 of these Rules sufficient to authorize the imposition of  
45 discipline;

46 (B) the petition fails to request appropriate  
47 discipline;

48 (C) the petition fails to contain sufficient information  
49 concerning the admissions of fact and the admissions of  
50 conduct;

51 (D) the record in the proceeding does not contain  
52 sufficient information upon which to base a decision to  
53 accept or reject.

54 (iv) The Special Master's decision to reject a Petition for  
55 Voluntary Discipline does not preclude the filing of a

56 subsequent petition and is not subject to review by the  
57 Supreme Court of Georgia. If the Special Master rejects a  
58 Petition for Voluntary Discipline, the disciplinary case shall  
59 proceed as provided by these Rules.

60 (v) The Special Master may accept the Petition for  
61 Voluntary Discipline by entering a report making findings of  
62 fact and conclusions of law and delivering same to the Clerk  
63 of the State Disciplinary Boards. The Clerk of the State  
64 Disciplinary Boards shall file the report and the complete  
65 record in the disciplinary proceeding with the Clerk of the  
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79 Supreme Court of Georgia.

80 (3) Pursuant to Rule 4-210 (e), the Special Master may, in his  
81 discretion, extend any of the time limits in these Rules in order to  
82 adequately consider a Petition for Voluntary Discipline.