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September 24, 1998

Certified Mail - R.R.R. and Regular Mail

Angelo R. Bisceglie, Jr., Esq.
One Newark Center
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Re: In the Matter of Angelo R. Bisceglie, Jr.
Docket No. DRB 98-129
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Bisceglie:

After a de novo review of the record in the above matter, supplemented by oral argument, the Board determined to impose an admonition for your misconduct.

Specifically, on August 17, 1993 you were retained by the Plainfield Board of Education to defend six of the nine Board members against charges filed by a school employee. Pursuant to a Board resolution, you were to be paid at the rate of \$125 per hour. On August 24, 1993 the assignment judge ordered a twelve-week stay of the case to allow the Board to obtain an additional engineering report. Notwithstanding the court's order, you continued to work on the case, albeit at the direction of certain Board members.

Ultimately, the case was settled. You billed the Plainfield Board of Education a total of \$80,915.21 for 645.5 hours of work. Included in this amount was time billed for other legal matters assigned to you by certain Board members. The work was not, however, authorized by Board resolution. Included in the 645.5 hours billed were 170 hours of work performed after August 24, 1993, the date the court ordered a twelve-week stay of the proceedings. After the Board filed for fee arbitration, your fee was reduced to \$46,508.96. Despite the fact that your work after the court-ordered stay was authorized by the president of the Board, it was not authorized by the full Board. Under these circumstances, the fee charged was unreasonable and in violation of RPC 1.5(a). In addition, you failed to communicate to the Board, in writing, the basis or the rate of your fee before or within a reasonable time after commencing the representation, in violation of RPC 1.5(b).

I/M/O Angelo R. Bisceglie
DRB 98-129

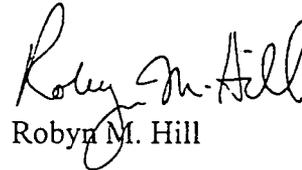
In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that there was no overreaching on your part, that the existence of a resolution authorizing your services at the rate of \$125 an hour mitigated against your failure to provide a written fee agreement to the Board, that you cooperated with the disciplinary system by entering into a stipulation and, finally, that no disciplinary infractions had been sustained against you since your admission to the bar in 1987.

Your conduct adversely reflected not only upon you as an attorney, but also upon all members of the bar. Accordingly, the Board has directed the issuance of this admonition to you.
R. 1:20-15 (f) (4).

A permanent record of this occurrence has been filed with the Clerk of the Supreme Court and the Board's office. Should you become the subject of any further discipline, it will be taken into consideration.

The Board has also directed that the costs of the disciplinary proceedings be assessed against you. An affidavit of costs will be forwarded under separate cover.

Very truly yours,


Robyn M. Hill

RMH:ms

- c. Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz
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