

book

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

LEE M. HYMERLING, ESQ., CHAIR  
JAMES R. ZAZZALI, ESQ., VICE-CHAIR  
HON. WARREN BRODY  
MICHAEL R. COLE, ESQ.  
RUTH JEAN LOLLA  
MARY J. MAUDSLEY, ESQ.  
ROCKY L. PETERSON, ESQ.  
BARBARA F. SCHWARTZ  
WILLIAM H. THOMPSON, D.D.S.



RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX  
CN 962  
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0962  
(609) 292-1011

ROBYN M. HILL  
CHIEF COUNSEL

ISABEL FRANK  
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

LILLIAN LEWIN  
DONA S. SEROTA-TESCHNER  
COLIN T. TAMS  
ELLEN A. BRODSKY  
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

October 27, 1997

## Certified Mail R. R. R. and Regular Mail

Vera E. Carpenter, Esq.  
One Gateway Center  
Newark, New Jersey 07102

Re: In the Matter of Vera E. Carpenter  
Docket No. DRB 97-303  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Ms. Carpenter:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was unethical. Specifically, on or about February 14, 1993 you were retained by Rosa Gibson to represent her in connection with injuries allegedly sustained in an accident involving a New Jersey Transit bus. Despite your obligation to represent your client's interests responsibly, after the initial work was completed on the file you failed to act with reasonable diligence and promptness in advancing her claim. In addition, you failed to reply to Ms. Gibson's numerous telephone calls and to keep her informed about the status of the case. Moreover, after Ms. Gibson retained new counsel, you did not timely release the file to him, despite his numerous requests that you do so. Your conduct in this matter was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.3, RPC 1.4 (a) and RPC 16 (d). 1-16(d).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that new counsel was able to file a complaint within the statutory period and that a settlement of an undetermined amount was reached with the bus company.

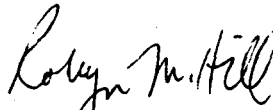
Your conduct adversely reflected not only upon you as an attorney but also upon all members of the bar. Accordingly, the Board has directed the issuance of this admonition to you.

I/M/O Vera E. Carpenter  
Docket No. DRB 97-303

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
- Associate Justices
- Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk
- Supreme Court of New Jersey
- Lee M. Hymerling, Chair
- Disciplinary Review Board
- David E. Johnson, Jr., Director
- Office of Attorney Ethics
- Joan M. Schwab, Chair
- District VA Ethics Committee
- Madeline E. Cox, Secretary
- District VA Ethics Committee
- Steve Hallett, Esq., Respondent's Counsel
- Rosa Gibson, Grievant