DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY



Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex P. O. Box 962 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0962 (609) 292-1011

July 28, 1998

ROBYN M. HILL CHIEF COUNSEL

ISABEL FRANK DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

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

CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R. & REGULAR MAIL

Robert Simons, Esq. 25 North 5th Street Camden, New Jersey 08102

> RE: In the Matter of Robert Simons Docket No. 98-189 LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Simons:

LEE M. HYMERLING, ESQ., CHAIR

HON. WARREN BRODY

RUTH JEAN LOLLA

MICHAEL R. COLE, ESQ.

MARY J. MAUDSLEY, ESQ.

ROCKY L. PETERSON, ESQ.

WILLIAM H. THOMPSON, D.D.S.

BARBARA F. SCHWARTZ

JAMES R. ZAZZALI, ESQ., VICE-CHAIR

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in August 1995, while you were employed as an assistant prosecutor in the Camden County Prosecutor's Office, at the request of a friend who worked for a security company you helped monitor closed circuit telecasts of a professional fight shown at various bars and restaurants in Pennsylvania. The object of the monitoring was to determine whether the legality of the broadcast was being observed. After you noticed what you believed to be an illegal telecast of the fight, you filled out an affidavit form that had been given to you for such purpose. After asking your friend's permission, you signed the friend's name on the form and notarized the "signature." That affidavit was subsequently attached to a complaint filed in federal court. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 8.4 (c).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered the extensive mitigation present in this case, namely that you quickly admitted your wrongdoing and cooperated with the disciplinary authorities by stipulating the facts, that you notified your employer of your misconduct as soon as you were informed of its impropriety, that you lost your job as a result



Page Two In the Matter of Robert Simons

of your actions, that you were a new attorney at the time, that you enjoy a good reputation among your peers and are held in high esteem by your former office, that you were not representing a client when you committed your misconduct, that you derived no personal gain from your actions and lastly that you were inexperienced in civil law and apparently were unaware that your conduct was unethical.

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. <u>Rule</u> 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 cost of the disciplinary proceedings be assessed against you. An affidavit of costs will be forwarded under separate cover.

Very truly yours,

obur M.Hill

Robyn M. Hill

RMH/emw

cc: Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz Associate Justices Stephen W. Townsend, Esq. Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey Lee M. Hymerling, Esq. Chair, Disciplinary Review Board David E. Johnson, Jr., Esq. Director, Office of Attorney Ethics Jay J. Blumberg, Chair District IV Ethics Committee Jaffa F. Stein, Secretary District IV Ethics Committee Michael D. Miller, Respondent's Counsel Robert H. Holber, Grievant

