DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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December 20, 1999

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

Juan J. Gonzalez, Esq. 311 Market Street, 1B Camden, New Jersey 08102

Re: In the Matter of Juan J. Gonzalez Docket No. DRB 99-342 LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Gonzalez:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in or about January 1997, during your employment as assistant counsel with the City of Camden, you were entrusted with a matter titled Recovery House, Inc. vs. City of Camden. A memorandum dated January 8, 1997 from the assistant city attorney to you indicated that the answer had been suppressed for failure to answer interrogatories and requested that you answer interrogatories and file a motion to reinstate the answer. When you did not answer the interrogatories, plaintiff filed a motion seeking judgment against the City of Camden, in the amount of \$31,000. Although you were granted an extension to reply to the motion, you did not file any written response or request oral argument. On the return date of the motion, you belatedly appeared before the judge presiding over the motion and announced to him that you were there on behalf of the City of Camden. The judge granted plaintiff's motion. Thereafter, you ignored plaintiff's counsel's letters complaining that the judgment had not been satisfied. Your conduct in this matter constituted gross neglect and lack of diligence, in violation of <u>RPC</u> 1.1(a) and <u>RPC</u> 1.3.

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>R</u>. 1:20-15 (f) (4).

I/M/O Juan J. Gonzalez DRB 99-342

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,

Koly M. Hill Robyn M. Hill

RMH:ms

c.

Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz
Associate Justices
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Supreme Court of New Jersey
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Disciplinary Review Board
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District IV Ethics Committee
Roderick T. Baltimore, Esq., Respondent's counsel
City of Camden, Grievant