# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

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ASSISTANT COUNSEL

February 15, 2001

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

Gary A. Kay, Esq. PO Box 173, Route 537 Clarksburg, New Jersey 08510

Re:

In the Matter of Gary A. Kay Docket No. DRB 00-382

LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Kay:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, prior to 1999 you were retained by Irving Kaplan and Associates, Commercial Debt Collectors ("Kaplan") regarding the collection of various debts owed to Kaplan's clients. Despite your obligation to keep your client informed about the status of its matters, you failed to reply to its numerous requests for information. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.4(a). In addition, after Kaplan terminated the attorney-client relationship with you, in early 1999, you failed to return the files to Kaplan despite its request and that of an investigator for the District IX Ethics Committee. Your conduct was improper and in violation of RPC 1.16(d).

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.  $\underline{R}$ . 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.

# I/M/O Gary A. Kay DRB 00-382

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
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Supreme Court of New Jersey
Lee M. Hymerling, Chair
Disciplinary Review Board
David E. Johnson, Jr., Director
Office of Attorney Ethics
Ronald Troppoli, Chair
District IX Ethics Committee
Kathleen Sheedy, Secretary
District IX Ethics Committee
Irving Kaplan & Associates, Grievant