## DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD



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### SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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ASSISTANT COUNSEL

May 22, 2002

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

Jonathan H. Lesnik, Esq. Lesnik and Wolfenson 2414 Morris Avenue Union, NJ 07083

Re:

In the Matter of Jonathan H. Lesnik

Docket No. DRB 02-120

LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Lesnik:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in October 2000, you were retained by Marea Anne DePalma to represent her in a divorce matter. Despite your obligation to represent your client's interests responsibly, you did not file an answer to the complaint or obtain an extension of time to file an answer, as a result of which the court entered a final judgment of divorce by default. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of <u>RPC</u> 1.1(a) and <u>RPC</u> 1.3. In addition, you did not keep your client reasonably informed about the status of the matter, in violation of <u>RPC</u> 1.4(a).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that your actions did not cause permanent injury to your client and that no disciplinary infractions have been sustained against you since your admission to the New Jersey bar in 1991.

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).

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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
Rocky L. Peterson, Chair, Disciplinary Review Board
David E. Johnson, Jr., Director, Office of Attorney Ethics
Marc Brown, Chair, District XII Ethics Committee
Nicholas Caruso, Secretary, District XII Ethics Committee
Kenneth S. Javerbaum, Respondent's counsel
Marea Anne DePalma, Grievant