DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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Richard J. Hughes Justice Complex P. O. Box 962 Trenton, New Jersey 08625-0962 (609) 292-1011 July 8, 2002 ROBYN M. HILL CHIEF COUNSEL

ISABEL FRANK

Lillian Lewin Dona S. Serota-Teschner Colin T. Tams Ellen A. Brodsky JoAnn G. Eyler *assistant counsel*

CERTIFIED MAIL – R.R.R. & REGULAR MAIL

Richard M. Roberts, Esq. 80 Main Street, 2nd Floor W. Orange, NJ 07052

Re: In the Matter of Richard M. Roberts Docket No. DRB 02-148 LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Roberts:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Following a <u>de novo</u> review of the record, supplemented by oral argument, the Board determined to impose an admonition. Specifically, in your representation of Jesus Duverge in a criminal matter, you failed to provide him with a written retainer agreement in violation of <u>RPC</u> 1.5(b). The remaining charges were dismissed for lack of clear and convincing evidence.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that no disciplinary infractions have been sustained against you since your admission to the New Jersey bar in 1971.

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).

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.

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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,

Koby M. Hill Robyn M. Hill

RMH/LL/ns

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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 Kevin R. Jespersen, Chair, District VB Ethics Committee Michael S. Haratz, Secretary, District VB Ethics Committee Michael D'Alessio, Jr., Esq., Respondent's Counsel Jesus Duverge, Grievant