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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY



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March 12, 2002

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

Frederick M. Testa, Esq.
Testa Law Firm
704 Passaic Avenue
West Caldwell, New Jersey 07006

Re: In the Matter of Frederick M. Testa
Docket No. DRB 01-319
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Testa:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in 1999 you were retained by Susan Hlywa, the executrix of the estate of George Evans, to assist with the probate of the estate. In April 1999, the decedent's house was sold. Notwithstanding your obligation to represent the estate diligently, you did not make the final estate distribution until one year after the house was sold. In addition, you did not provide a detailed accounting of your legal fees, as requested by the estate's subsequent attorneys. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.3.

You also failed to reply to the district ethics committee investigator's attempts to obtain information about the grievance. Your conduct was improper and in violation of RPC 8.1(b).

In mitigation, the Board considered that ultimately you filed an answer to the formal ethics complaint, appeared at the district ethics committee hearing, and, through counsel, participated in the oral argument before the Board.

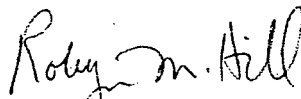
I/M/O Frederick M. Testa
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Your conduct adversely reflected not only upon you as an attorney, but also upon all members of the bar. Accordingly, the Board has directed the issuance of this admonition to you. R. 1:20-15(f)(4).

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.

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
William Taylor, Chair, District XI Ethics Committee
Robert Stober, Secretary, District XI Ethics Committee
Anthony Fiorella, Respondent's counsel
Susan Hlywa, Grievant