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April 24, 2003

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

Clifford Van Syoc, Esq. 535 Route 38 East Cherry Hill, New Jersey 08002

Re

In the Matter of Clifford Van Syoc

Docket No. DRB 03-013

LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Van Syoc:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, on or about November 14, 1998, Susan and Duane Daney met with you to discuss Mrs. Daney's potential employment discrimination claim against her prior employer. In response to that meeting, the Daneys forwarded to you a written chronology of events. On April 19, 1999, the Daneys meet with an associate in your firm and executed a retainer agreement, as well as authorizations for the release of employment and medical records.

From June 1999 through March 2000, the Daneys made numerous telephone calls to your office, which were either taken or returned by the associate. On those occasions, the associate told the Daneys that you were either reviewing the file or working on the claim. The Daneys were never informed by either phone or correspondence that you had not accepted their case or declined representation. Under the circumstances, they reasonably believed that you had agreed to represent them and that an attorney-client relationship existed.

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Despite your obligation to represent the Daneys responsibly, you did not review their file, thereby failing to act with reasonable diligence and promptness, in violation of <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. \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.

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,

Nobym M. Hill

/tk

c. Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz

Associate Justices

Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey William J. O'Shaughnessy, Vice-Chair, Disciplinary Review Board David E. Johnson, Jr., Director, Office of Attorney Ethics Frederic L. Shenkman, Chair, District I Ethics Committee Frank L. Corrado, Jr., Secretary, District I Ethics Committee Steven Kudatzky, Respondent's counsel Susan L. Daney, Grievant