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DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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ASSISTANT COUNSEL

January 26, 2006

CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R. & REGULAR MAIL

Gordon Allen Washington  
c/o Donald Miller, Esq.  
167 Main Street  
Hackensack, NJ 07601

RE: In the Matter of Gordon Allen Washington  
Docket No. DRB 05-307  
District Docket No. XIV-04-543E (formerly  
District Docket VI-02-024E)  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Washington:

The Disciplinary Review Board reviewed the recommendation for an admonition filed by the District VI Ethics Committee in the above matter. Following a review of the record, the Board concluded that your conduct was improper and determined to impose an admonition.

Specifically, you held in escrow approximately \$20,390 for various disbursements related to the July 20, 2001 Haywood real estate closing. Less than one month later, on August 18, 2001, counsel for the seller informed you that certain bills, such as quarterly taxes and an exterminator bill, had already been paid. Therefore, he requested you to release some of the escrow funds. It took seven months and several more letters before you finally disbursed the funds. Your conduct in this regard violated RPC 1.15(b) (failure to promptly deliver funds to which a third party is entitled).

In addition, you lacked diligence in addressing the problem once it was brought to your attention, a violation of RPC 1.3. However, the Board dismissed the RPC 1.1(a) and RPC 8.4(c) charges for lack of clear and convincing evidence.

As to RPC 8.1(b), initially you failed to comply with the investigator's requests for information about the grievance, until a formal ethics complaint was filed against you. Thereafter, you answered the complaint, appeared at the ethics hearing with counsel, and cooperated fully with ethics authorities. Because of your ultimate cooperation, the Board dismissed the RPC 8.1(b) charge.

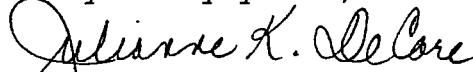
In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered your twenty years of practice at the bar without prior discipline. The Board noted that your conduct was confined to a seven-month period of time; it was committed in a single matter; and no client was harmed.

Your conduct has 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,



Julianne K. DeCore  
Chief Counsel

JKD/sw

c: Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz  
Associate Justices  
Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey  
Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey  
(w/ethics history)  
Mary J. Maudsley, Chair, Disciplinary Review Board  
David E. Johnson, Jr., Director, Office of Attorney Ethics  
Nitza Blasini, Deputy Ethics Counsel  
Office of Attorney Ethics  
Donald Miller, Esq., Counsel for Respondent