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

February 26, 2010

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

Duane T. Phillips 705 White Horse Pike Absecon, New Jersey 08201

> Re: <u>In the Matter of Duane T. Phillips</u> Docket No. DRB 09-402 District Docket No. I-08-016E LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Phillips:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in above matter and has concluded that it was the improper. Specifically, in 2007, you represented Joanne Vomvas (now Vomvas Clarke) in connection with her Nevada divorce proceedings. Although you are not licensed to practice law in Nevada, your client believed that you were representing her there, rather than merely assisting her to prepare pro se forms. Your retainer agreement, your name on pleadings filed with the Nevada court, your participation in a telephone conference with opposing counsel, and a letter sent on Ms. Vomvas' behalf indicating that you were representing her in the divorce proceedings establish you engaged in the unauthorized practice of law, that а violation of RPC 5.5(a)(1).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that your conduct involved only one client, that you have no ethics history, and that it is unlikely that you will repeat this type of conduct.

JULIANNE K. DECORE CHIEF COUNSEL

Isabel Frank Deputy Chief Counsel

Ellen A. Brodsky First Assistant Counsel

LILLIAN LEWIN DONA S. SEROTA-TESCHNER COLIN T. TAMS KATHRYN ANNE WINTERLE Assistant Counsel In the Matter of Duane T. Phillips Docket No. DRB 09-402 Page 2

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. <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.

The Board has also directed that the costs of the disciplinary proceedings be assessed against you. An invoice of costs will be forwarded under separate cover.

Very truly yours,

Juliane K. Delore

Julianne K. DeCore Chief Counsel

JKD/11

c:

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner Associate Justices Louis Pashman, Chair

Disciplinary Review Board

Mark Neary, Clerk

Supreme Court of New Jersey

Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk

Supreme Court of New Jersey (w/ethics history) Charles Centinaro, Director

Office of Attorney Ethics

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