# **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

March 10, 2010

#### VIA CERTIFIED MAIL & R.R.R.

Elton John Bozanian, Esq. c/o Norman S. Karpf, Esq. Rotolo Rotolo Yi & Karpf 115 Broad Avenue Palisades Park, NJ 07650

#### In the Matter of Elton John Bozanian

Docket No. DRB 09-400

District Docket Nos. IIB-2007-0028E and IIB-2007-0029E LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Bozanian:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in November 2003, you represented Arthur White as attorney-in-fact for his mother, Annie Oberton, with regard to a partition matter. For seven months thereafter, you failed to file virtually completed pleadings given to you by prior counsel. Thereafter, from September 2004 to February 2005, you ignored White's sixteen telephone calls for information about in February 2005, White terminated the case. Finally, the representation and retained new counsel. Your conduct was improper and a violation of RPC 1.3 (lack of diligence) and RPC 1.4(b) (failure to communicate with the client).

JULIANNE K. DECORE

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 Elton John Bozanian Page 2

In a second matter, Diane Pittman retained you, in November 2001, to represent her in an action against a used-car dealer. You failed to keep Pittman informed about important aspects of her case and to send her two court orders dismissing the complaint. Your conduct violated <u>RPC</u> 1.4(b). The Board agreed with the DEC that the additional charge that you lacked diligence (<u>RPC</u> 1.3) should be dismissed, in that, once you learned that experts could not establish liability on behalf of the defendant, the dismissals were almost inevitable. The Board, thus, dismissed the <u>RPC</u> 1.3 charge for lack of clear and convincing evidence.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you have had no final discipline since your 1996 admission to the New Jersey bar, that you refunded the \$1,000 legal fee to Pittman, and that you paid her \$3,000 because you believed that she should recoup the amount offered by the defendant early in the case.

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 invoice of costs will be forwarded under separate cover.

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Very truly yours,

Julianne K. DeCore Chief Counsel

## JKD/sj

C:

Chief Justice Stuart Rabner

Associate Justices

Mark Neary, Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey
Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey
(w/ethics history)

Louis Pashman, Chair, Disciplinary Review Board Charles Centinaro, Director, Office of Attorney Ethics Joseph R. Donahue, Chair, District IIB Ethics Committee Doris J. Newman, Secretary, District IIB Ethics Committee Arthur White, Grievant Diane Pittman, Grievant