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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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ASSISTANT COUNSEL

November 3, 2005

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

Queen E. Payton
REDACTED - CONFIDENTIAL

RE: In the Matter of Queen E. Payton
Docket No. DRB 05-250
District Docket No. XII-04-041E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Ms. Payton:

The Disciplinary Review Board reviewed the motion for discipline by consent (admonition) filed by the District XII Ethics Committee pursuant to R. 1:20-10(b). Following a review of the record, the Board determined to grant the motion and to impose an admonition.

Specifically, between September 2003 and August 2004, while ineligible to practice law in New Jersey for failure to pay the annual attorney assessment to the New Jersey Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection, you practiced law with your husband on a limited, part-time basis, conducting legal research, calling clients and doing "paperwork" in the office. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 5.5(a). You also failed,

initially, to cooperate with the Office of Attorney Ethics during its investigation of this disciplinary matter, a violation of RPC 8.1(b).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered the family illnesses that hampered your ability to cooperate with the investigators, and your lack of prior discipline.

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,

By Label Frank
Julianne K. DeCore
Chief Counsel

JKD/sw

c: Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz
Associate Justices
Judith DeRosa, Chair, District XII Ethics Committee
William B. Ziff, Secretary, District XII Ethics Committee
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