# **DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD**

#### OF THE

## SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX CN 962 TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625 (609) 292-1011

April 3, 1996

ROBYN M. HILL CHIEF COUNSEL

ISABEL FRANK DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

PAULA T. GRANUZZO LILLIAN LEWIN DONA S. SEROTA-TESCHNER ASSISTANT COUNSEL

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

Raymond A. Brown, Jr., Esq. 82 Clinton Avenue Box 1180 Newark, New Jersey 07101

#### RE: <u>In the Matter of Raymond A. Brown, Jr.</u> Docket No. DRB 95-212 LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Brown:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was unethical. With the approval of the Supreme Court, the Board has concluded that an admonition is the appropriate discipline for your misconduct.

Specifically, as a result of your failure to perform quarterly reconciliations of your attorney records, as required by <u>R</u>.1:21-6, you failed to detect two bank errors in connection with your trust account. It was fortuitous that the "shortage" in your trust account was not an actual shortage, but only a "perceived" one due to the bank's errors. It is undisputed, however, that you failed in your accounting responsibilities, in violation of <u>R</u>.1:21-6 and <u>RPC</u> 1.15(d). You further violated those rules when you used a facsimile rubber stamp to sign trust account checks.

In mitigation, the Board considered that you deposited the appropriate funds in your trust account, that you were forthright with the investigator from the Office of Attorney Ethics, that you cooperated with the disciplinary process at every stage and that you brought your attorney records in compliance with the rules. I/M/O Raymond A. Brown, Jr. DRB 95-212 Page 2

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.

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,

Robyn M. Hill

RMH/dm

C: Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz Associate Justices Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk Supreme Court of New Jersey Lee M. Hymerling, Esq., Chair Disciplinary Review Board David E. Johnson, Jr., Esq., Director Office of Attorney Ethics Ernest G. Ianetti, Esq. Counsel for respondent