

Book

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September 25, 1996

**Certified Mail - R.R.R.  
and Regular Mail**

William A. Hansen, Esq.  
1218 N.E. Central Avenue  
Seaside Park, New Jersey 08752

**RE: In the Matter of William A. Hansen  
Docket No. DRB 96-270  
LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Hansen:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in 1991, while you were acting as executor of the estate of Ruth Niehaus, you failed to communicate with the beneficiary of the estate or with her daughter, the grievant in this disciplinary matter. Although it is true that grievant was not your client, she was acting in behalf of her mother, the estate beneficiary. Instead of ignoring grievant's inquiries about the status of the case, you should have either advised her that you could not discuss the case with her without her mother's authorization or informed the beneficiary that her daughter was not your client. Your conduct was improper and in violation of RPC 1.4(a).

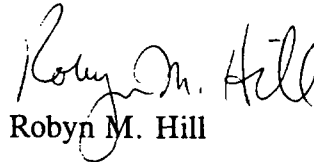
Your conduct adversely reflected not only upon you as an attorney but also upon all members of the bar. Accordingly, the Board has directed the issuance of this admonition to you. R.1:20-15(f)(4).

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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 Deborah T. Poritz  
Associate Justices  
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Counsel for respondent  
Margaret Rutledge, Grievant