

DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

LEE M. HYMERLING, ESQ., CHAIR
ELIZABETH L. BUFF, VICE-CHAIR
MICHAEL R. COLE, ESQ.
HON. PAUL R. HUOT
MARY J. MAUDSLEY, ESQ.
ROCKY L. PETERSON, ESQ.
BARBARA F. SCHWARTZ
WILLIAM H. THOMPSON, D.D.S.
JAMES R. ZAZZALI, ESQ.



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

ROBYN M. HILL
CHIEF COUNSEL

ISABEL FRANK
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

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

February 20, 1996

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

James A. Key, Jr., Esq.
856 Amboy Avenue
Edison, New Jersey 08817

RE: **In the Matter of James A. Key, Jr.**
Docket No. DRB 95-418
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Key:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in or about March 19, 1991, you were retained by Moyfrid Mazzella to represent her in connection with an appeal. Although you filed the appeal with the Appellate Division, you failed to correct certain deficiencies, as a result of which the appeal was dismissed in November 1991. You did not inform your client of the dismissal of the appeal. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.4(a) and (b) and RPC 1.3.

Additionally, in May 1991, Moyfrid Mazzella retained you to file a complaint against Channel Home Center, arising out of a February 1991 incident. Although you filed the complaint, it was subsequently dismissed for lack of prosecution. Again, you failed to inform your client of this action. Your conduct was improper and violative of RPC 1.3 and RPC 1.4.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that, at the time, you were saddled with personal problems and that no

*File
Book*

James A. Key, Jr., Esq.
February 20, 1996
Page Two

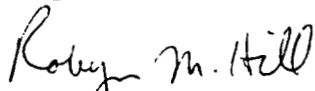
disciplinary infractions have been sustained against you since 1974, the date of your admission to the New Jersey bar.

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).

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
Julius J. Feinson, Esq., Chair
District VIII Ethics Committee
Manny Gerstein, Esq., Secretary
District VIII Ethics Committee
Steven Altman, Esq.,
Counsel for Respondent
Moyfrid Mazzella, Grievant