

Book

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RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX
CN 962
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0962
(609) 292-1011

ROBYN M. HILL
CHIEF COUNSEL

ISABEL FRANK
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

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November 25, 1996

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

James A. Key, Jr. Esq.
856 Amboy Avenue
Edison, New Jersey 08847

**RE: In the Matter of James A. Key, Jr.
Docket No. DRB 96-357
District Docket No. VIII-95-065E
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 1988 you were retained by Mateo Wach to represent him in a personal injury action. Although you filed the complaint within the statute of limitations, you allowed it to be dismissed for failure to provide answers to interrogatories. Thereafter, you made no diligent efforts to reinstate the complaint. Indeed, it was not until four years later that you had the complaint restored. At no time during the period from 1992 to 1994 did you communicate with your client to answer the interrogatories or to notify him that the case had been dismissed. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.3 and RPC 1.4(a).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered your candor and admission of wrongdoing. Although the Board is aware that you were admonished on February 20, 1996 for allowing an appeal to be dismissed for failure to correct certain deficiencies, the Board noted

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that the ethics infractions in both matters were part and parcel of the same pattern of conduct. Accordingly, no enhanced discipline is warranted.

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 Deborah T. Poritz
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District VIII Ethics Committee
Steven Altman, Esq.,
Counsel for respondent
Mateo Wach, Grievant