

Book

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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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May 23, 1995

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

James R. Lisa, Esq.  
359 Second Street  
Jersey City, New Jersey 07302

RE: In the Matter of James R. Lisa  
Docket No. DRB 95-124  
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Lisa:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, you used a trust account as a personal business account, as a result of which three overdrafts occurred on February 1, February 2 and March 1, 1993, totalling \$168.50. Because of your improper utilization of that account as a business account, from July through October 1992, you did not maintain a trust account. In addition, another overdraft occurred in connection with a second trust account that you opened on November 25, 1992. In that case, the overdraft was the result of a deposit of a client's check for \$2,500 that was not backed by sufficient funds. No client funds were invaded as a result of the above overdrafts.

Furthermore, following a demand audit conducted by the Office of Attorney Ethics, several recordkeeping deficiencies were discovered. Despite the OAE's numerous requests that you certify that those deficiencies had been corrected and that your records were in compliance with the rules, you provided only a partial reply. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of R. 1:21-6, RPC 1.15 and RPC 8.1(b).

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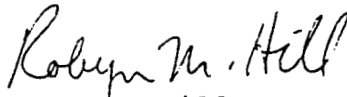
In the Matter of James R. Lisa

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. Rule 1:20-4(f)(2).

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 cost 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/rt

cc: Chief Justice Robert N. Wilentz  
Associate Justices  
Stephen W. Townsend, Esq.  
Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey  
Raymond R. Trombadore, Esq.  
Chair, Disciplinary Review Board  
David E. Johnson, Jr., Esq.  
Director, Office of Attorney Ethics  
Claudette St. Romain, Esq.  
Chair, District VI Ethics Committee  
Jack Jay Wind, Esq.  
Secretary, District VI Ethics Committee