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November 25, 1996

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

Michael G. Prestia, Esq.
20 Park Avenue
Box 9029
Lyndhurst, New Jersey 07071

**RE: In the Matter of Michael G. Prestia
Docket No. DRB 96-369
LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Prestia:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in or about 1992, you were retained by Michael DeMeglio and Valerie Poslusny to handle a residential real estate closing on their behalf. At the time you were retained, you quoted them a legal fee of \$500 plus expenses. You did not prepare or execute a written retainer agreement. At the closing, you charged them \$500 for legal services, \$100 for disbursements, and additional fees listed on the RESPA statement that more than tripled the original quoted fee of \$500. Inasmuch as you had not represented the clients regularly, you had an obligation to communicate to them the basis or rate of your fee in writing. Your conduct was improper and violative of RPC 1.5(b). The Board found no clear and convincing evidence that you intended to mislead or deceive your clients, contrary to RPC 8.4(c).

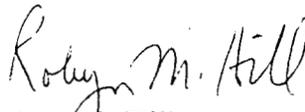
I/M/O Michael G. Prestia
Docket No. DRB 96-369
Letter of Admonition
Page 2

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. 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 IIB Ethics Committee
Louis C. Esposito, Esq.
Counsel for respondent
Michael and Valerie DeMeglio
Grievants