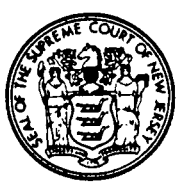


Book

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OF THE
SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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January 24, 1997

CERTIFIED MAIL - R.R.R. AND REGULAR MAIL

James A. Geller, Esq.
704 Passaic Avenue
West Caldwell, New Jersey 07006

Re: In the Matter of James A. Geller
Docket No. 96-439
District Docket No. VC-94-028E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Geller:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was unethical. Specifically, in 1987 you entered into a business transaction with Melvin and Leonard Levine, who had been your longstanding clients since approximately 1973. Although at the time of the business transaction there was no pending legal matter in which you were representing the Levines, they looked to you as their lawyer. While there was no evidence that the terms of the transaction were not fair and reasonable or that the Levines did not understand the transaction and its terms, you did not obtain their consent to the transaction in writing, as required by RPC 1.8(a)(3). Your conduct was improper and violated that rule.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that, in the thirty-three years of your practice of law, twenty-four of which have been in New Jersey, there were no ethics grievances filed against you prior to this incident.

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).

I/M/O James A. Geller

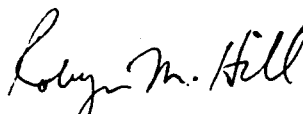
Docket No. 96-439

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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

/sj

cc:

Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz

Associate Justices

Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk

Supreme Court of New Jersey

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Disciplinary Review Board

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District VC Ethics Committee

Philip McGovern, Jr., Esq., Secretary

District VC Ethics Committee

Melvin and Leonard Levine, Grievants