

Book

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January 24, 1997

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

William Ruggiero
c/o Mason, Briody, Gallagher & Taylor
104 Carnegie Center
Princeton, New Jersey 08540

**Re: In the Matter of William Ruggiero
Docket No. 96-393
District Docket No. VIII-95-052E
LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Ruggiero:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was unethical. Specifically, the Borough of Brooklawn retained you as special counsel in connection with landfill clean-up cases during the period 1989-1992. Despite your obligation to keep your client reasonably informed, for a period of more than two years you failed to report to the Borough of Brooklawn the status of the cases and also failed to render comprehensive reports to the Borough, causing the governing body to be unfairly surprised by the accumulated amount of its municipality's financial obligations. More specifically, the Borough was unaware that \$18,000 had been assessed against it by liaison counsel until it received communication directly from liaison counsel. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.4.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered your quick admission of wrongdoing, your cooperation with the district ethics committee, your apology to the Mayor of Brooklawn and the fact that you refrained from billing the Borough for a number of legal services.

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 William Ruggiero

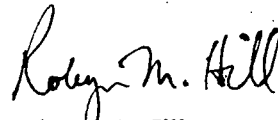
Docket No. 96-393

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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
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