

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

## OF THE SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY



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October 7, 2002

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### CERTIFIED MAIL – R.R.R. AND REGULAR MAIL

Jeff H. Goldsmith, Esq.  
1605 John Street  
Fort Lee, NJ 07024

**Re: In the Matter of Jeff H. Goldsmith**  
**Docket No. DRB 02-232**  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Goldsmith:

The Disciplinary Review Board reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Following a de novo review of the record, supplemented by oral argument, the Board determined to impose an admonition. Specifically, from September 10, 1999 through April 10, 2000, you practiced law while ineligible due to your failure to pay the annual assessment to the New Jersey Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection, in violation of RPC 5.5(a). You also failed to comply with the terms of a diversionary agreement entered pursuant to R.1:20-3(i)(2)(B)(i). Your conduct was improper and in violation of RPC 8.1(b).

The Board did not find a violation of RPC 8.1(a), finding no clear and convincing evidence that you knowingly made a false statement to the DEC investigator. The Board, therefore, dismissed that charge.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered the significant mitigating factors present in this matter. Specifically, you suffered from physical problems, personal tragic events as well as an acrimonious dissolution of your partnership.

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The Board determined to require you to submit within thirty days of this letter, proof of fitness to practice law, as attested by a mental health professional approved by the Office of Attorney Ethics.

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/LL/ns

c: Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz  
Associate Justices  
Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey  
Rocky L. Peterson, Chair, Disciplinary Review Board  
David E. Johnson, Jr., Director, Office of Attorney Ethics  
Stephen H. Roth, Chair, District IIB Ethics Committee  
Morton R. Covitz, Secretary, District IIB Ethics Committee  
Lee A. Gronikowski, Deputy Ethics Counsel, Office of Attorney Ethics