

BE ✓

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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ASSISTANT COUNSEL

January 11, 2001

## Certified Mail - R.R.R. and Regular Mail

Juan A. Lopez, Jr., Esq.  
507 Summit Avenue, Suite 2  
Jersey City, New Jersey 07306

Re: In the Matter of Juan A. Lopez, Jr.  
Docket No. DRB 00-340  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Lopez:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, from February 1997 through March 1999 you represented Gilberto Negron, who was charged with possession of drugs and was being prosecuted by the Hudson County Prosecutor's Office. During the same time period, you were an Assistant Municipal Prosecutor for the City of Jersey City. Your conduct was improper and in violation of R.1:15-3(b) and Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics Opinion 239, 95 N.J.L.J. 481 (May 18, 1972). The latter two prohibit a municipal prosecutor from representing an accused before the county court when the offense originated — or the accused resided — in the municipality for which the attorney is the prosecutor.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you were unaware of Opinion 239 and that, after being acquainted with it, you acknowledged your wrongdoing. The Board also noted that no disciplinary infractions had been sustained against you since your admission to the New Jersey bar in 1985.

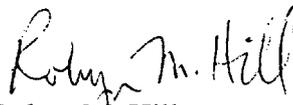
Your conduct adversely reflected not only upon you as an attorney, but also upon all members of the bar. Accordingly, the Board has directed the issuance of this admonition to you. R. 1:20-15(f)(4).

I/M/O Juan A. Lopez, Jr.  
DRB 00-340

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:ms

- c. Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz
- Associate Justices
- Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk
- Supreme Court of New Jersey
- Lee M. Hymerling, Chair
- Disciplinary Review Board
- David E. Johnson, Jr., Director
- Office of Attorney Ethics
- Sharon Rivenson Mark, Chair
- District VI Ethics Committee
- Jack Jay Wind, Secretary
- District VI Ethics Committee
- Edward J. DeFazio, Esq., Grievant