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April 19, 2002

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

E. Steven Lustig, Esq.
East 80 Route 4, Suite 100
Paramus, NJ 07652

Re: In the Matter of E. Steven Lustig
Docket No. DRB 02-053
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Lustig:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, you represented Dolores Fondo in a matrimonial action brought by her husband. In April 1997, you were holding in your trust account \$4,800 to satisfy an outstanding hospital bill owed by the Fondos. Notwithstanding your obligation to disburse those funds promptly, you held them in your trust account for a period of three and one-half years. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.15(b). In addition, for a period of two and one-half years you practiced law while on the ineligible list for failure to pay the annual assessment to the New Jersey Lawyers' Fund for Client Protection. Your conduct was improper and in violation of RPC 5.5(a). Lastly, an audit of your attorney trust and business accounts identified numerous recordkeeping deficiencies, in violation of R.1:21-6 and RPC 1.15(d).

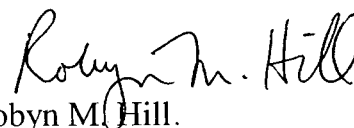
In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that, at the relevant time, you were suffering from depression, for which you sought help; that you were going through bankruptcy and divorce proceedings; that you are not currently practicing law in New Jersey, having moved to Florida; that you have paid all sums due to the Client Protection Fund; and that you showed contrition for your ethics infractions.

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:ms

- 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
- Howard B. Leopold, Respondent's counsel