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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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July 22, 2002

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

Martin G. Margolis, Esq.
60 Pompton Avenue
Route 23
Verona, New Jersey 07044

Re: In the Matter of Martin G. Margolis
Docket No. DRB 02-166
District Docket No. XIV-99-021E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Margolis:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in or about May 1998, during the course of your representation of Morris and Ruth Winograd, you notarized Ruth Winograd's signature on certain loan documents, even though she signed them outside of your presence. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 8.4(c), in that your completion of the acknowledgement constituted a misrepresentation that all the jurat formalities had been observed.

In addition, in your representation of the Winograds' interests in the Aziz matter, you failed to prepare a written contingency fee agreement. Your conduct was improper and in violation of RPC 1.5(c).

For the reasons expressed by the hearing panel, the Board agreed with the dismissal of the remaining charges of the complaint.

I/M/O Martin G. Margolis
Docket No. DRB 02-166


In mitigation, the Board considered that, before you affixed your jurat on the loan documents, you certified with Mrs. Winograd that her signature was genuine. The Board also noted that there was no dispute between the parties as to the contingent nature of the fee agreement in the Aziz case.

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:tk

- 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
Lisa D. Taylor, Esq., Chair, District VC Ethics Committee
Philip McGovern, Jr., Esq., Secretary, District VC Ethics Committee
William B. McGuire, Respondent's counsel
Morris and Ruth Winograd, Grievants