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July 19, 2004

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

Jonathan Saint-Preux, Esq.
700 Nye Avenue
Suite 202
Irvington, New Jersey 07111

Re: In the Matter of Jonathan Saint-Preux
Docket No. DRB 04-174
District Docket Nos. VC-02-025E and 027E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Saint-Preux:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in 1997 Ali Elarefi Hano Eisa retained you to represent him in connection with an application for political asylum. As a result of your and Mr. Eisa's failure to appear at a hearing on August 24, 1998, the immigration court entered an in absentia order for his deportation. You did not apprise Mr. Eisa of this important development. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 1.3 and RPC 1.4(a).

In another matter, you were retained by Jean Noel, in February 2000, to handle a petition for political asylum. Although the immigration judge allowed you to participate telephonically in a hearing scheduled for July 18, 2000, neither you nor your client appeared on that date. The judge, therefore, entered an order for Mr. Noel's deportation. Mr. Noel was

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directed to report to the Immigration and Naturalization Service on November 14, 2000. You did not advise him of these developments. On November 15, 2000, the day after Mr. Noel was to report for deportation, you filed a motion to reopen the case. You did not send Mr. Noel a copy of the motion. The court denied the motion for, among other reasons, failure to overcome the fact that you and your client had notice of the hearing. Your conduct in this matter violated RPC 1.3 and RPC 1.4(a).


In imposing only an admonition, the Board noted that, although the Eisa hearing notice was mailed to your office, it was addressed to an associate who, by that time, had left your law firm. The Board also considered that you have taken steps to ensure that all hearing notices are sent to clients by certified mail.

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 invoice of costs will be forwarded under separate cover.

Very truly yours,


Julianne K. DeCore

/tk

c. Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz
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Ali Elarefi Hano Eisa, Grievant
Jean M. Noel, Grievant