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SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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January 11, 2001

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

Jeri L. Sayer, Esq.
95 Westfield Avenue
PO Box 705
Clark, New Jersey 07066

Re: In the Matter of Jeri L. Sayer
Docket No. DRB 99-238
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Ms. Sayer:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. With the approval of the Supreme Court, the Board has concluded that an admonition is the appropriate discipline for your misconduct. Specifically, in late 1989 or early 1990 you were retained by Veronica M. Chieffo in connection with a workers' compensation claim against her employer, the Jackson Township Board of Education. On October 21, 1990, you filed a workers' compensation petition, which was dismissed for lack of prosecution on February 16, 1994, almost three and one-half years after its filing. The order of dismissal noted your failure to appear in court on Chieffo's behalf. Thereafter, on or about February 1, 1995, you filed a motion to restore the petition, which was denied on May 24, 1995. In June 1995, you moved for reconsideration of the court's denial of your motion. By order dated September 27, 1995, the petition was reinstated. On January 10, 1996, however, Chieffo's matter was dismissed for a second time for lack of prosecution. The order again cited your failure to appear in court on Chieffo's behalf. In January 1997, you filed a motion to restore the petition. On January 6, 1998, the motion was denied. After having obtained numerous adjournments of the return of the motion, you failed to appear on the January 6, 1998 return date.

In March 1998, you filed an appeal with the Superior Court, Appellate Division, contesting the workers' compensation court's denial of your motion to restore the petition. By order dated July 1, 1998, the Appellate Division dismissed the appeal on its own motion, based on your failure to file a timely brief. In addition, in March 1998, after you filed the appeal, the attorney for Chieffo's

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employer advised you that the employer was willing to settle the matter, despite the dismissal of the workers' compensation claim. You failed to pursue settlement negotiations. It was not until the week before the district ethics committee hearing that you called the employer's attorney. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.3 and RPC 1.1(a).

In addition, you failed to keep your client advised about the status of her claim and also failed to notify her that her case had been dismissed. Your conduct was improper and in violation of RPC 1.4(a).

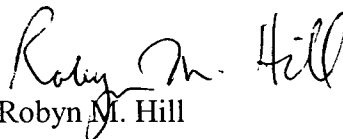
In mitigation, the Board considered that you were beset by serious family problems and responsibilities at the time of your misconduct, that you cut back your practice both in hours and in the nature of the cases you handle and that you were truly remorseful for the harm suffered by your client.

Your conduct adversely reflected not only upon you as an attorney, but also upon all members of the bar. Accordingly, the Court 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 Court 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
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Disciplinary Review Board
David E. Johnson, Jr., Director
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Rose Ann Haggerty, Chair
District XII Ethics Committee
Nicholas Caruso, Secretary
District XII Ethics Committee
Veronica Chieffo, Grievant