

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY



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December 18, 2000

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

Isabelle Strauss, Esq.  
59 Gregory Avenue  
West Orange, New Jersey 07052

Re: In the Matter of Isabelle Strauss  
Docket No. DRB 99-451  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Ms. Strauss:

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 is issuing this letter of admonition for your misconduct. Specifically, on or about November 6, 1991, the New York law firm of Wolf & Hoffman sent you the personal injury files of five individuals who had been involved in an accident on August 1, 1985. Although you presumably agreed to represent all plaintiffs, in reviewing the files you noticed that the claims of Laverne Jefferson Edmonds and Sharon Jefferson had been barred by the applicable statute of limitations and by a New York court order. Another problem was that the injury suffered by Katreal Jefferson and Yolanda Scott did not appear to meet the then-applicable tort threshold. In at least one case — if not in four of the five matters — you did not inform the individual that you would not be pursuing her claim. Indeed, over the next seven years, Laverne Jefferson Edmonds — or her husband, in her behalf — attempted to obtain information about the status of all five matters, to no avail. You did not comply with the Edmondses' request for information. As to the fifth individual, Evangela Richardson, a minor and the only person you acknowledged representing, from November 1991 to March 1999 you did little or no work in her behalf. In March 1999, all files were transferred to another attorney, presumably at the request of the five individuals. Your conduct in this matter was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.1(a) (gross neglect), RPC 1.3 (lack of diligence) and RPC 1.4(a) (failure to keep a client reasonably informed about the status of a matter).

I/M/O Isabelle Strauss  
DRB 99-451

In imposing only an admonition, the Court considered that no disciplinary infractions have been sustained against you since your admission to the New Jersey bar in 1976.

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
- 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.
- Cynthia Walters, Chair
- District VB Ethics Committee
- Michael Haratz, Secretary
- District VB Ethics Committee
- Robert L. Martin, Esq., Respondent's counsel
- Evangela Richardson, Katreal Jefferson, Yolanda Scott,
- Laverne Jefferson and Sharon Jefferson, Grievants