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December 3, 2007

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

Steven B. Hayhurst c/o David H. Dugan, III, Esq. 1 North Main Street Medford, NJ 08055

Re: In the Matter of Steven B. Hayhurst

Docket No. DRB 07-274

District Docket No. XIV-06-537E

LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Hayhurst:

The Disciplinary Review Board reviewed the disciplinary stipulation executed by you and the Office of Attorney Ethics (OAE) and concluded that your conduct was improper. Specifically, a random compliance audit disclosed that you engaged in recordkeeping violations and left legal fees in your attorney trust account, totaling \$206,943, from January 2003 to January 2005. Your conduct was unethical and in violation of RPC 1.15(d).

In issuing only an admonition, the Board considered that the OAE found no evidence that you negligently misappropriated any clients' funds, that you ultimately removed all of your fees by February 7, 2005, and that all of your clients and third parties were timely paid. The Board also noted that no disciplinary infractions have been sustained against you since your admission to the bar in 1993.

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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.  $\underline{R}$ . 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 Chief Counsel

/tk

c. Chief Justice Stuart J. Rabner Associate Justices

Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey (w/ethics history)

William J. O'Shaughnessy, Chair, Disciplinary Review Board David E. Johnson, Jr., Director, Office of Attorney Ethics Michael J. Sweeney, Assistant Ethics Counsel Office of Attorney Ethics