

Back

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

## SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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November 21, 2007

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

Joseph C. Lane, Esq.  
2100 Highway 35  
Suite B  
Sea Girt, New Jersey 08750

Re: In the Matter of Joseph C. Lane  
Docket No. DRB 07-245  
District Docket No. IX-06-0026E  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Lane:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, Stephen B. Johnson, in his role as executor, retained you to handle the estate of his sister, Elizabeth Johnson. During the course of your representation of the estate, you failed to timely address a letter you received from an auditor from the New Jersey Division of Taxation and failed to ensure that the auditor timely received the requested information. You also failed to comply promptly with the executor's request that the estate funds and the file be forwarded to the estate's new attorney.

In addition, you failed to keep the executor informed about the status of the estate and delayed in advising the executor of your receipt of the auditor's letter and of the status of your reply to the letter.

I/M/O Joseph C. Lane  
Docket No. DRB 07-245  
Page Two


Your conduct was improper and in violation of RPC 1.3 and RPC 1.4(b).

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,

  
By 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  
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District IX Ethics Committee  
Stephen B. Johnson, Grievant