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## SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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RICHARD J. HUGHES JUSTICE COMPLEX
P. O. Box 962
TRENTON, NEW JERSEY 08625-0962
(609) 292-1011

November 13, 2007

JULIANNE K. DECORE

ISABEL FRANK
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

ELLEN A. BRODSKY
LILLIAN LEWIN
DONA S. SEROTA-TESCHNER
COLIN T. TAMS
KATHRYN ANNE WINTERLE
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## Certified Mail - R.R.R. and Regular Mail

Vera McCoy, Esq. P.O. Box 927 Clementon, NJ 08021

Re: In the Matter of Vera McCoy

Docket No. DRB 07-269

District Docket No. XIV-06-184E

LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Ms. McCoy:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, on July 24, 2006, as the result of four overdrafts on your attorney trust account over a short period of time, the Office of Attorney Ethics (OAE) conducted a demand audit of your books and records. The OAE's audit disclosed that your records were virtually non-existent, thus your recordkeeping was deficient in numerous respects and that you withdrew legal fees without first determining whether you had sufficient fees to cover the withdrawals. Moreover, you admitted that you were not familiar with the recordkeeping rule, R. 1:21-6.

In addition, when the OAE reconstructed your trust account records, it found chronic shortages in the account, attributable to your failure to maintain the required books and records. Such failure resulted in the negligent misappropriation of client trust funds.

Your conduct was unethical and in contravention of  $\underline{R}$ . 1:21-6 and RPC 1.15(d).

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In issuing only an admonition, the Board considered that you cooperated fully with the OAE investigation, that you have taken substantial steps to bring your records into compliance with the recordkeeping rules, that you have been submitting to the OAE monthly reconciliations of your trust account records, and that you have agreed to take a legal education course relating to attorney trust accounting.

The Board has determined that you should continue to submit the reconciliations to the OAE for an additional one-year period.

Your conduct has 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 affidavit 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 Nitza I. Blasini, Deputy Ethics Counsel

Office of Attorney Ethics