

Back

DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

WILLIAM J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, ESQ., CHAIR
LOUIS PASHMAN, ESQ., VICE-CHAIR
EDNA Y. BAUGH, ESQ.
MATTHEW P. BOYLAN, ESQ.
BONNIE C. FROST, ESQ.
RUTH JEAN LOLLA
LEE NEUWIRTH
HON. REGINALD STANTON
SPENCER V. WISSINGER, III



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

JULIANNE K. DECORE
CHIEF COUNSEL

ISABEL FRANK
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

ELLEN A. BRODSKY
LILLIAN LEWIN
DONA S. SEROTA-TECHNER
COLIN T. TAMS
KATHRYN ANNE WINTERLE
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

December 8, 2006

CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R. & REGULAR MAIL

Filipe Pedroso
c/o Justin Walder, Esq.
Walder Hayden & Brogan
5 Becker Farm Road
Roseland, NJ 07068

RE: In the Matter of Filipe Pedroso
Docket No. DRB 06-278
District Docket No. VA-02-027E
CORRECTED LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Pedroso:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper.

Specifically, in April 1998, Celeste Guia retained you to represent her in a medical malpractice litigation. Between April 1998 and December 2001, when Guia terminated the representation, various defendants were forced to file repeated motions in order to spur you to action. You ignored discovery requests for answers to interrogatories, failed to obtain executed medical authorizations from Guia for the release of medical records to the defendants, and took little action to make the medical expert available for deposition. Your conduct in this regard evidenced a lack of diligence and a failure to expedite litigation, violations of RPC 1.3 and RPC 3.2, respectively.

In the Matter of Filipe Pedroso

Page Two

On the other hand, the Board found no clear and convincing evidence that you failed to communicate with Guia or failed to protect her interests on termination of the representation. The Board, therefore, dismissed the charges of violation of RPC 1.4(a) and RPC 1.16(d).

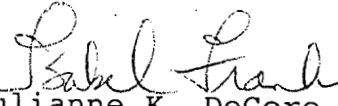
In issuing only an admonition, the Board considered that you have no prior discipline and were a newly admitted attorney at the time of the misconduct.

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 invoice of costs will be forwarded under separate cover.

Very truly yours,

By 
Julianne K. DeCore
Chief Counsel

JKD/sw

c: Chief Justice James R. Zazzali
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
Christopher M. Farella, Chair, District VA Ethics Committee
Seth E. Zuckerman, Secretary, District VA Ethics Committee
Justin Walder, Respondent's Counsel
Celeste Guia, Grievant

DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

WILLIAM J. O'SHAUGHNESSY, Esq., CHAIR
LOUIS PASHMAN, Esq., VICE-CHAIR
EDNA Y. BAUGH, Esq.
MATTHEW P. BOYLAN, Esq.
BONNIE C. FROST, Esq.
RUTH JEAN LOLLA
LEE NEUWIRTH
HON. REGINALD STANTON
SPENCER V. WISSINGER, III



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

JULIANNE K. DeCORE
CHIEF COUNSEL

ISABEL FRANK
DEPUTY CHIEF COUNSEL

ELLEN A. BRODSKY
LILLIAN LEWIN
DONA S. SEROTA-TESCHNER
COLIN T. TAMS
KATHRYN ANNE WINTERLE
ASSISTANT COUNSEL

December 8, 2006

CERTIFIED MAIL, R.R.R. & REGULAR MAIL

Filipe Pedroso
c/o Justin Walder, Esq.
Walder Hayden & Brogan
5 Becker Farm Road
Roseland, NJ 07068

RE: In the Matter of Filipe Pedroso
Docket No. DRB 06-278
District Docket No. VA-02-027E
CORRECTED LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Pedroso:

Enclosed please find a corrected letter of admonition in the above referenced matter. The prior letter inadvertently listed Jeffrey Bernstein as respondent's counsel. We apologize for this clerical error.

Very truly yours,


By Julianne K. DeCore
Chief Counsel

In the Matter of Filipe Pedroso

Page Two

/tk

c: Chief Justice James R. Zazzali
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
Christopher M. Farella, Chair, District VA Ethics Committee
Seth E. Zuckerman, Secretary, District VA Ethics Committee
Justin Walder, Respondent's Counsel
Celeste Guia, Grievant