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February 23, 2006

**VIA CERTIFIED – R.R.R. AND REGULAR MAIL**

James C. Richardson, Esq.  
968 Somerset Street  
Watchung, NJ 07069

Re: In the Matter of James C. Richardson  
Docket No. DRB 06-010  
District Docket No. XIII-05-007E  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Mr. Richardson:

The Disciplinary Review Board reviewed the motion for discipline by consent (admonition) filed by the District XIII Ethics Committee, pursuant to R. 1:20-10(b). Following a review of the record, the Board determined to grant the motion and to impose an admonition.

Specifically, in December 1997, you prepared a will and did some estate planning for Dorothy A. Fink. Dorothy's will named you as the executor of the estate. A portion of Dorothy's estate was transferred to her daughter prior to Dorothy's death. After you probated the will, for more than two years the beneficiaries attempted to contact you, almost monthly, but many of their telephone calls or faxes went unanswered. You admitted that you lacked diligence in completing work on the estate matter, and failed to reply to a number of the beneficiaries' requests for information about the estate. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 1.3 and RPC 1.4(a).

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In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you had taken on the matter as a family friend.

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).

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

/ns

c: Chief Justice Deborah T. Poritz  
Associate Justices  
Stephen W. Townsend, Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey  
Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk, Supreme Court of New Jersey  
(w/ethics history)  
Mary J. Maudsley, Chair, Disciplinary Review Board  
David E. Johnson, Jr., Director, Office of Attorney Ethics  
David W. Trombadore, Chair, District XIII Ethics Committee  
Donna P. Legband, Secretary, District XIII Ethics Committee  
Richard Fink, Grievant