

File

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OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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June 22, 2007

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

Gerald M. Saluti, Jr., Esq.
c/o Brook M. Barnette, Esq.
Law Office of Paul W. Bergri, Esq.
572 Market Street
Newark, New Jersey 07105

RE: In the Matter of Gerald M. Saluti
Docket No. DRB 07-117
District Docket No. I-06-031E
LETTER OF ADMONITION

Dear Mr. Saluti:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, on September 15, 2003, you were retained to appeal Alexis Gonzalez' conviction. Gonzalez, who was incarcerated at the time, authorized you to communicate with him through his mother, Alicia Solano, and his girlfriend, April Cece.

Over the course of the next two years, Gonzalez' family paid you a total of \$6,750 for the representation, including a July 9, 2004 payment of \$1,500 for transcript costs.

I/M/O Gerald M. Saluti, Jr.

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Although it is undisputed that you had intermittent communications with Ms. Solano and/or Ms. Cece during the two-year representation and that, until April 2004, the communications were somewhat satisfactory, you conceded that a breakdown in communications heightened in April 2004, when your wife became seriously ill. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 1.4(b).


In mitigation, the Board considered that you have no disciplinary history, that you were beset by your wife's illness at the time, and that you have made restitution to your client.

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,


Julianne K. DeCore
Chief Counsel

/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
Donald R. Charles, Jr., Chair, District I Ethics Committee
Frederic L. Shenkman, Secretary, District I Ethics
Committee
Alexis Gonzalez, Grievant