

File ✓
DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY

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July 24, 2007

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

William A. Thompson, III
2428 Atlantic Avenue
Atlantic City, NJ 08401

Re: In the Matter of William A. Thompson, III
Docket No. DRB 07-118
District Docket No. I-05-010E
Letter of Admonition

Dear Mr. Thompson:

The Disciplinary Review Board reviewed the recommendation for discipline (admonition) filed by the District I Ethics Committee ("DEC") in the above matter. After a careful review of the record, the Board has determined to impose an admonition.

Specifically, as the collection attorney for an Atlantic City entity, in order to protect your fees, you refused to turn over its files to subsequent counsel despite counsel's repeated assurances that he would protect your fees. In fact, counsel sent you a fee in at least one matter (Schwartz) and testified that you would likely have earned fees in other instances if you had forwarded certain documents to him.

Your conduct was unethical and a violation of N.J. Advisory Committee on Professional Ethics Opinion 554, 115 N.J.L.J. 565 (1985) and RPC 1.16(d).

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you have no prior discipline in twenty years at the bar and that you acted with a faulty concept of your ethics obligations, rather than out of venality.

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,



Julianne K. DeCore
Chief Counsel

JKD/sw

c: Chief Justice Stuart 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
Cosmo A. Cianci, Grievant