

# DISCIPLINARY REVIEW BOARD

OF THE

SUPREME COURT OF NEW JERSEY



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ASSISTANT COUNSEL

July 29, 2009

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

Michelle Joy Munsat, Esq.  
76 South Orange Ave, Suite 305  
South Orange, NJ 07079

Re: **In the Matter of Michelle Joy Munsat**  
Docket No. DRB 09-107  
District Docket No. VB-08-12E  
**LETTER OF ADMONITION**

Dear Ms. Munsat:

The Disciplinary Review Board has reviewed your conduct in the above matter and has concluded that it was improper. Specifically, in 2006, after you were retained to appeal your client's felony conviction, you timely filed a notice of appeal and related documents, but not the appellate brief and appendix. Although you later obtained four extensions to file the brief and appendix, you failed to do so, thereby causing the dismissal of the appeal. Ultimately, your client's new attorney was able to reinstate the appeal. Your conduct was unethical and a violation of RPC 1.3.

In imposing only an admonition, the Board considered that you were beset by numerous personal and family issues during the course of the representation, that you engaged in pro bono work and work with the needy and disadvantaged, that you admitted

your wrong doing and showed contrition, that you refunded the fee, and that you experienced "embarrassment" and "agony" over letting your client down.

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  
Louis Pashman, Chair  
Disciplinary Review Board  
Mark Neary, Clerk  
Supreme Court of New Jersey  
Gail G. Haney, Deputy Clerk  
Supreme Court of New Jersey (w/ethics history)  
Charles Centinaro, Director  
Office of Attorney Ethics  
Rubin M. Sinins, Chair, District VB Ethics Committee  
Seth Ptasiewicz, Secretary, District VB Ethics Committee  
Bettye Thompson, Grievant